

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Lily Haight with local news for June 2, 2021.

\*\*\*

Jefferson County Public Health reported one new case of COVID-19 yesterday. Right now, there are only 2 active cases in isolation, and 44 test results pending. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been a total of 417 cases in Jefferson County. Despite the low case count right now, the public health department's masking mandate is still in effect until June 30. You must wear a mask indoors in public spaces, including in businesses and other publicly accessible indoor locations.

The Department of Emergency Management, together with Jefferson County Public Health, will staff a vaccine clinic at the Farmer's Market on Tyler Street on Saturday, June 5 from 9am-1pm. The vaccine at this clinic will be Johnson & Johnson. Those 18 and older are eligible. Appointments are preferred but walk-ins are accepted.

\*\*\*

The city of Port Townsend's Public Works Department is seeking citizen's opinions on their "Dark Skies Initiative." Dark Skies is a global initiative to preserve the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality lighting policies and dark-sky education. Cities can apply to be designated as a Dark Sky Community by altering the lighting policies in town, including putting shields around street lamps and limiting the number of street lamps in town. The city received a grant to replace all of the street lights in Port Townsend with LED bulbs, which would allow the city the opportunity to use dark-sky-compliant fixtures while saving energy and overall operations and maintenance costs. This could mean darker streets at night, and more chances to view the night sky. But the city is asking for the input of citizens before turning down the street lights. Go to the city of Port Townsend's website (<https://cityofpt.us/publicworks/page/port-townsend-evaluating-dark-skies-initiative-beginning-public-streetlights-and>) or Facebook page to find a survey that you can take from now until June 15th. The results of the survey will help inform the development of street lighting policy and whether or not there is a reduction in the number of street lights.

\*\*\*

The Fort Worden PDA is in the midst of restructuring itself and is seeking individuals to serve as short-term, transitional board members who will guide the PDA during this restructuring period. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a financial crisis for the PDA, which also brought to light an alleged history of mismanagement of funds within the organization. The board still awaits the results of an audit by the state auditor's office that will point to any fraud. But meanwhile, led by former city manager David Timmons, the current board members are teaming up with city staff and state parks to restructure the PDA and keep the Fort alive.

To do this work, the PDA and the city are seeking citizens to join as short-term board members. The mayor of Port Townsend, with approval of the city council, appoints the members of the PDA Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees PDA activities and establishes and implements PDA policy. The Board of Directors also appoints the Executive Director who manages the day-to-day affairs of the PDA. Short-term board members should expect 1 to 2 years of "high intensity" work. Board members will be taking on a long list of to-dos, including:

- The establishment and start-up of a hospitality non-profit arm of Fort Worden
- An assessment of the financial sustainability and viability of the Fort
- Consideration, planning, and action on significant asset management and capital maintenance needs
- Transition planning and preparation for the next Executive Director, and

- Finalization of long-term tenant/partner leases and possible amendments to the Master Lease with State Parks

To learn more about how to apply to be a board member, and what the job will entail, visit [cityofpt.us](http://cityofpt.us), and click on “Boards and Commissions.” You’ll find an application form to fill out (<https://cityofpt.us/bc/webform/boards-commissions-application>), which must be sent to city hall along with a cover letter and resume.

Beyond the Fort Worden Board, there are several other city boards and commissions seeking new members, including the arts commission, the historic preservation committee, the library advisory board, the planning commission and more. Go to the city’s website to see the full list and to apply for a position.

\*\*\*

And that’s it for today’s local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at 5pm Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). I’m Lily Haight. Thanks for listening.