

ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters Minutes for March 9th, 2016

In Attendance: Chris Beale, Brianna Charbonnel, Mary Dodsworth, Scott Gallacher, Buzz Grant, Anders Ibsen, Kirk Kirkland, Jane Moore, Shawn Phelps, Lyle Quasim, Terry Reid, Kurt Reuter, Barbara Skinner, Rick Talbert, Tony Tipton, George Walk, Diane Wiatr, Mark Williams. Guest: Don Partington

President Chris Beale called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm.

Review and Approve Minutes Anders moved approval of the minutes, Barbara seconded. The motion was approved.

Financial Report Executive Director Jane Moore pointed to the current financial numbers shown on the agenda. The US Bank account contains \$15,439 and the GTCF is at \$14,400. Of the \$29,840 combined balance, \$16,882 are reserved for activities related to the Puyallup Watershed Initiative (PWI).

Executive Director Report Jane reported that we have \$2500 from the PWI to hire a consultant for organizational and fund development. There was general consensus that we need to take a step back and discuss our future direction before we have a more focused effort on fundraising. The Executive Board will discuss this and report back to the Board in April.

Jane and George staffed the ForeverGreen booth at the March 5th South Sound Sustainability Expo at the Tacoma Convention and Trade Center. The event was well attended and eight people signed up to receive the ForeverGreen newsletter. Jane expressed the need for a new large display map showing future trails. One will be created for future events, based on the latest Pierce County Parks Map.

Jane attended the Pierce County Sustainability meeting earlier in the day. Pierce County presented plans to extend Canyon Road across the Puyallup River. While the new bridge itself will have a separated bike path, the new sections of Canyon south of the river will only have a 4-foot wide shoulder for bicycling. A number of Board members expressed that they felt a shoulder was inadequate for bicycles on such a high speed roadway. It was revealed that the existing Milroy Bridge (66th Ave) will be removed once the new Canyon Bridge is built. Some Board members thought that it would be beneficial to keep the old bridge open for nonmotorized use. Tony explained that the maintenance costs would be significant to keep the old bridge open, even for nonmotorized use. The maintenance burden would fall on Pierce County Parks. The abutments on the bridge are compromised. Shawn mentioned that the new bridge will be approximately ¼ mile from the existing one, so having both would be somewhat redundant. Kurt mentioned that Fife will be improving 70th Avenue north of the bridge. The Army Corps of Engineers has released a draft plan for realignment of the levee. Shawn and Tony will talk to Pierce County Public Works staff about questions surrounding the Canyon Road extension and the existing bridge. (The Pierce County project lead has agreed to make a presentation at the May 11th Board meeting).

Bike Month Planning Diane shared that the Annual Bike Swap will be held April 30th at UPS. The event features used bikes being sold at low costs. ForeverGreen will have a booth at the event. May 1st is the Blessing of the Bikes at Urban Grace Church. The Tacoma City Council will make a Bike Month proclamation. Shawn shared that the 3rd Annual Anderson Island ride will be on May 22nd. Chris announced that a family ride will be held on May 14th on the Riverwalk Trail.

Shawn mentioned that the new version of the Pierce County Bike Map should be available for Bike Month.

Rick asked if roads that don't have bike lanes but have wide shoulders, such as 176th Street, are shown on the map. Shawn confirmed that roadways with shoulders will be shown on the map as suggested routes.

Park Impact Fee Working Group Kirk, ForeverGreen's representative on the Working Group, reported on meetings that have been held thus far. Kirk noted the following discussion items from the meetings.

- Raising the rates is very controversial and is seen as a competitive disadvantage for development in communities if it is set too high.
- Determining credits for developers that build trails within a site, like Tehaleh, is a question.
- Subdivisions that have ten lots or more are currently required to build neighborhood parks. Pierce County is not funded to maintain these parks, so they can become a liability.
- Subdivisions will likely have the option to pay the impact fee rather than build neighborhood parks.

Kirk indicated that the Working Group will be finished in about a month. The Board debated on whether impact fees really affect building rates. Some cities with high fees have seen incredible growth. Kirk feels that all parties in the Working Group think that some level of increase in the fees should occur. One goal is to have the fee charged at home sale. Kirk shared that the recommendations of the Working Group will be before the County Council in the summer and testimony is important.

Rick mentioned that some elected officials are concerned about affordability and that their actions could price some people out of a home. Lyle echoed that developers argue that impact fees raise the cost of homes. Mary pointed out that developer advertising materials often show trails and parks to attract buyers. Rick feels that, regardless of whether the impact fee increase, there needs to be further funding like a Parks district.

Tony said that Parks staff is investigating the comments and concerns that have come out of the Working Group. For instance, there is one statement that it is felt that people are using the neighborhood parks within developments and not using regional parks.

Complexity of Trail Building White Paper Terry and Chris both suggested that sidebars and photos be added to make the document more attractive. There was discussion on whether the paper should only focus on interjurisdictional trails or be more generic to address all trails. There was agreement on the latter, but still having mention of the further complexities of interjurisdictional projects.

Mary suggested that cultural resources need to be called out as an obstacle to some trail building. She also would like stewardship to be mentioned. There was agreement that the "What is a Trail" description needs to be modified. Diane suggested that the Washington State definition of a trail be used. Jane will work with Bryan to revise the paper.

Trail Stewardship Program Package Chris shared materials from Puyallup's Trail Stewardship program and Mary shared Lakewood's experience with their program. The Board voiced support for the materials.

News, Updates, and Announcements Diane announced that the Washington Bike Summit will be held at the Tacoma Convention Center on March 21-22. Shawn shared that he nominated Bryan Bowden for a 2015 Pierce County Volunteer Recognition Award. Bryan was awarded the honor and will be attending a recognition brunch with Shawn on March 12th. Diane shared that the Major Taylor program is expanding to Mount Tahoma High School and Jason Lee Middle School. Scott announced that Key Pen Parks is holding a Poker Pedal on April 10th at the 360 Trails property.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:31 pm.