

ForeverGreen Board Meeting
June 10, 2009
Tacoma Metro Parks, Tacoma
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Attended: Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Brianna Charbonnel, Jayme Gordon, Terry Lee, John Olson, and Barbara Skinner.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon. Past-President Ernie Bay opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- Jayme read a note from Jane regarding a correction to the section of the May minutes about ForeverGreen's meeting with the Pierce County Executive's office. It was Jane and Kirk who met with an assistant from the Executive's office, not Jane and John.
- *Barbara motioned to approve the minutes with the noted correction. John seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Finances:

- Jayme reported that ForeverGreen received a \$2,000 check from Tacoma Metro Parks. In previous years Metro Parks has given \$5,000, but we are appreciative of what we received.
- Jayme also said that she received the contract from Pierce County Parks for the \$5,160 from the Pierce County Council. Jane has signed the contract and Jayme is waiting on the certificate of insurance from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation before sending it back to Parks for final signatures. We will be able to begin charging against this money June 1.

Old Business:

- Trails Advisory Committee Meeting – The June 10 TAC meeting has been canceled and is not rescheduled at this time.
- Annual Trails Conference – June 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m. was chosen as the meeting time for a committee to develop program ideas and other logistics for the 2009 Pierce County Trails Conference. The meeting will be held at the Pierce Conservation District office.
- WSTC 2010 State Trails Conference – Ernie and Barbara participated in a conference planning call with other members of the WSTC on June 8. The 2009 conference planning meeting is set for October 22 at Joeseppi's restaurant in Tacoma, 2:00-7:00 p.m. The working theme for the 2010 conference is, "From Backyard to Backcountry." Another conference call is planned for sometime in August. Ernie will contact the Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau as he continues to investigate possible sites for the 2010 conference. Barbara explained there isn't much to do right now, not until after the October meeting when the conference program is set.
- Long-Range Plan for Open Space – Jayme presented a one page info sheet about the Open Space Task Force, as drafted by the Pierce County Sustainability Coalition. It outlined three priorities: conserve open space, connect trails, and

prioritize open space acquisitions. Terry said that the county council is discussing inconsistencies in various open space regulations that need to be resolved. Bryan said that the grant application to the National Park Service to coordinate existing open space plans and priorities is still in the works but has not secured a sponsoring organization yet.

- Puyallup-Tacoma Trail – Bryan will follow up with Parametrix on the updated plan they were to send to the Tribe for review.

New Business:

- Tacoma Community Stewards – Jane, John, and Dave attended the TCS event at The Hub on May 28. They gave a presentation to about 50 people that John said was well received. A Cascade Land Conservancy representative, Craig Benjamin, is now working to coordinate existing trail groups in Tacoma, including ForeverGreen.
- Other – The ForeverGreen website is out of date, in some cases nearly a year out of date. Since Kirk usually handles this, we will wait until he returns from his vacation to take care of this.

What's Next for ForeverGreen?:

- Discussion continued from previous meeting.
- John suggested that ForeverGreen should clarify and promote the value of trails and get the message out in order to garner broader support.
- Ernie posed the question of how to motivate people, either citizens or policy makers, to action.
- John pointed out that ForeverGreen needs a professional staff to move forward on goals and objectives.
- Terry suggested speaking to city planners and other staff about using the required Comp Plan updates as an opportunity to incorporate the “Complete the Streets” program. This would lead local governments to develop policies, rules, and regulations that support trail development.
- Barbara commented that it would be easier for cities to do this if there was a template, presumably developed by the county, that they could use to draft their own trail related policies, regulations, etc.
- The board agreed that a special committee meeting should be planned for after the 4th of July to discuss ForeverGreen’s finance and budget strategy, and that the bulk of the July board meeting should be made available to discuss this strategy.

Information Sharing:

- John: Reported on the Rainier to Ruston relay race, held the previous weekend. He volunteered and said the race went well, although overall registrations were down from last year. He also said that at the CLC Awards Breakfast, Governor Gregoire signed the Transfer of Development Rights legislation, and nine projects are already in the works.
- Terry: Brought to everyone’s attention the article in today’s News Tribune about the trails at Chambers Bay. He has a meeting on June 15 that will focus on the future of the Pierce County Parks Dept. Senator Murray is soliciting \$1.2 million for trails in Gig Harbor; such funding will likely be put towards the Scott Pierson-

Cushman Trail connection. Money has been added to the Pierce County supplemental budget for maintenance on the Foothills Trail. A trail plan for the Narrows Airport property is in the early planning stages.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, July 8, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.