

ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting

Metro Parks Tacoma

Minutes for April 8, 2015

In Attendance: Bob Myrick, Brianna Charbonnel, Bryan Bowden, Buzz Grant, Chris Beale, David Boe, Diane Wiatr, Ernie Bay, George Walk, Jane Moore, Shawn Phelps, Terry Lee, Tony Tipton; Guests: Don Partington, Liz Kaster

President Bryan Bowden called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

Review and Approve Minutes: David moved approval of the minutes, Buzz seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Update: Executive Director Jane Moore reported on the US Bank and GTCF balances, which are \$34,474.73 and \$8,962.43, respectively. There was some discussion that the Board's financial picture is not great. Bryan said individuals will be contacted for donations and conference sponsorships in the near future. The anonymous donor who matched up to \$3000 of contributions is not available this year. Jane mentioned that \$30,000 of the Board's budget is tied up in Puyallup Watershed COI work.

Consider IRS 501c3 application. ForeverGreen is a state recognized nonprofit, but not a federal 501c3. One benefit of federal status is that members can claim miles driven to Board activities on their federal tax return. There is a \$1500 fee to be federally recognized. Russell may give funds to non-federally recognized organizations. Diane suggests we ask Russell Family for the \$1500 in next funding cycle. Diane mentioned that there is lots of paperwork for federal filing, which would be another expense. We will need to ask Russell by summer if they will cover the costs. This may be in line with "growing organizations" that is a goal of the PWI. Being 501c3 may limit the amount of advocacy that we can do. Jane has successfully applied for 501c3 for an organization in the past. There will be conversation with Russell about their interest in funding the federal status. The Board will discuss this topic again at next meeting.

Cushman Trail Update: Terry Lee presented a map of Cushman Trail. He mentioned that the Gig Harbor community and Cushman Trail have evolved together. Two new sections are going to open in May, bringing the trail to Borgen Boulevard. A connector from the Cushman Trail to the Harborview linear park (wide sidewalk) has been surveyed. Further phases will go into Purdy and hopefully around Burley Lagoon. A dog park (Tubby's trail – named after dog that perished when old bridge collapsed) near the Narrows has been opened on land that was surplus from WSDOT to PenMet Parks after completion of the Narrows Bridge. The dog park will be used as trailhead for the Cushman and Scott Pierson Trails. Terry stepped through the sections of the Cushman Trail and trailheads. Pin pile bridges were used on northern part of trail due to wetlands, making these sections more costly. There are 8% grades in some sections, which required benches for resting to comply with ADA requirements. There is a new parking lot at the Borgen trailhead with restrooms. A direct connection between the Cushman and Scott Pierson Trails will likely be pursued as funds become available. Bicyclists currently have to use 24th overpass and Reid Drive to access the southern end of the Cushman. Pierce County Public Works is pursuing grant opportunities for a trail along Reid Drive.

Board Recruitment: Bryan suggested that Kurt Reuter, Parks and Recreation Director for Fife, be added to Board. There was lots of positive feedback for adding Kurt. Bryan will contact Kurt about his interest and invite him to next meeting. David suggested a WSDOT employee be invited and will ask WSDOT Secretary Lynn Peterson about this. David will also approach Andrew Strobel of the Puyallup Tribe. Diane suggests that we have a one-year term for a college student. It was suggested that this be an internship opportunity rather

than a Board member. Terry will bounce the idea off his contact at the TCC Gig Harbor campus. The Board will consider an internship in the future.

Short Term Goals Status Reports

- Puyallup-Tacoma trail link – River Road corridor – position paper draft. Bob pointed out a trail section along 70th Avenue in Fife north of 20th Street is not on map, as well as a new section of Pipeline Trail that Tacoma will be constructing this year. Bob also pointed out that new levee will alter any interim trail that is built before the levee is constructed. The Board unanimously adopted the trail alignment document.
- Update brochure – new draft – Chris will create a draft and the Board will attempt to approve online for use at the Bike Swap. Other refinements will occur later as needed.
- Pierce County Trails Conference – The Conference Planning Committee reported on progress. Brian handed out the draft agenda for Conference. October 15th is the preferred date. The theme this year is activism and advocacy. Bryan walked through the suggested speakers for the Agency Panel and Activism & Advocacy Panel. Ideas for locations were discussed. Brianna said the STAR Center not a good option for the date. The Pavilion at Homestead Park on the Gig Harbor Peninsula was suggested. It was decided to keep the registration fee at \$20. Tony threw out the idea of approaching the AT COI about funding a speaker. George suggested Lynn Peterson, the WSDOT Secretary. Other ideas for speakers are Mia Burke, Andrew Austin, or a Forterra representative. October 15th was accepted as the date. Bryan asked for volunteers for an awards committee. It was decided that Jane would solicit recommendations rather than have a committee. Bryan asked that the Board members suggest sponsors. Jane will send out a follow-up E-mail about awards recommendations and sponsors.
- Bike Month events – Diane said that event calendar is being printed today and will be distributed to Board members.

News, Updates, and Announcements

Tony informed the Committee that there is concern at the Senate is considering eliminating the WWRP program.

Bryan adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.