

ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting

March 12, 2014

Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters – 2nd Floor Board Room
4702 South 19th Street, Tacoma

The meeting was called to order by President Bryan Bowden at 12:07 pm.

In attendance: Brianna Charbonnel, George Walk, Tony Tipton, Gary Cooper, Kirk Kirkland, Bryan Bowden, Shawn Phelps, Lyle Quasim, David Seago, Barbara Skinner, Kendall Reid.

Review and Approval of Minutes The minutes were reviewed. George moved approval and Shawn seconded. Minutes approved.

Short Term Goals Dave moved and Kirk seconded approval of short term goals from the board retreat. After discussion short term goals were approved with the addition of the word “All” to goal #3.

Long Term Goals Approval of long term goals was moved and seconded. After discussion, long term goals were approved.

Metro Parks Tacoma Bond Issue. In order to meet voter pamphlet publishing deadlines, the executive committee voted to endorse the \$198 million bond issue at their meeting last Saturday. Barbara moved and Dave seconded support for the endorsement of Prop. 1. Passed with one abstaining.

Pierce County Parks Update Tony talked about updating the Pierce County Parks Comprehensive Plan to better represent open space and trail use. The open space policy plan will be refined to reflect recent open space studies. The policy statement should also reflect funding provided through Conservation Futures. It is also important to recognize the economic viability of agricultural land within the open space plan that continues to generate tax income and economic viability.

The Regional Trails Plan should include prioritization of projects as well as clear ideas about funding options so that elected officials can make informed choices. A thirty year outlook would indicate what funding will be required for maintenance of trails over the long term.

To respond to criticism about underuse of open space, properties need to be made more accessible even before money is available for significant upgrading of sites. Passive use trails can be developed through low cost parking facilities and community support of these trails. At the moment there is not even funding to support the identification and interaction with neighborhood groups. A volunteer coordinator would be able to support volunteers and friends groups interested in assisting with opening and maintaining access to open space properties not yet funded for development.

Financial Update Kirk looked at past budgets to predict what we could expect this year. He then talked about how to plan fundraising in order to end the current year with an increase in reserves.

Current reserves are around \$13,000 and anticipated expenses for the year are around \$6,000. Kirk proposes to gather \$2200 in conference sponsorships, with \$1200 coming from a Puyallup Watershed Initiative request. He also expects to be able to garner contributions of \$800 from e-mail requests to conference attendees and \$2,200 from contributions by board members. He proposed to get a matching grant for the last two categories of \$3000 from an anonymous donor.

Kirk and Bryan are willing to take on the fund raising tasks. The acceptance of Kirk's proposal was moved, seconded and approved.

Bryan reported that he contacted Curt Warber at the consulting firm Parametrix to discuss the remaining \$900 in the contract to develop conceptual alignment for a trail connection between Puyallup and Tacoma along River Road. This work was never completed (based on mutual understanding) but the contract was never closed. Curt sent Bryan an email stating that Parametrix considers the contract closed and does not intend to bill for the remaining \$900. Bryan forwarded the email to Jane Moore and asked that she save a copy for the records and adjust the budget to no longer carry the \$900 obligation. This adds \$900 to our budget.

Puyallup Watershed Initiative Transportation Choices Coalition may be the funding agent for the Active Transportation Community of Interest. Kirk suggests that ForeverGreen would hire a community organizer to move forward the project of connecting trails and do public relations work to increase public support.

Lyle and Tony both recognized that educating the public to achieve support for connecting trails is a big task, one that would require a full time position.

Board Recruitment Board members should be recruited from Transportations Choices Coalition Tacoma office, from Tacoma Wheelmen and from Foothills Trails Coalition. Bryan suggests that the current president (or their designee) of Tacoma Wheelmen and Foothills Trails Coalition be automatic members of the ForeverGreen Board.

Announcements Brianna asked for suggestions about what should be on the website. She will use this scope of work information to design a proposal and get estimates from companies to do the design work. The next meeting will be a good opportunity to have a detailed discussion of the website.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.