



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Board Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2018

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

Attendees Andrew Austin, Richard Bankhead, Chris Beale, Mary Dodsworth, Shawn Phelps, Terry Reid, George Walk; Jane Moore; Marty Stumpf, Manager, Design & Construction, MPT
Excused: Bob Myrick, Alan Carter Mortimer

Trail Presentation Metro Parks Tacoma – Wilson Way; other planned trails
Marty – Landscape architect, manages capital projects primarily those from 2014 capital bond. Initial 3 big projects new aquarium, Eastside Community Center and new trail/bridge at Point Defiance. Aquarium & Eastside Community Center now complete (on time). Trail behind schedule by about 1 year. Multiple funders including EPA for smelter remediation. Connectivity is a big part of plan with roundabout, bridge & trail. Bridge is essentially complete but trail is not. Bridge is 16 feet wide with great view across the bay. Still working on trails – Ruston Way to bridge and bridge to Owen Beach promenade. Trail to Ruston Way depends on completion of work in yacht club basin. Currently waiting for utilities to be connected to Tacoma; should be completed in 2019. Overall \$74 million project; Slides are not yet complete; there have been construction issues; will open at same time as bridge.

Another project is Loop Trail within Point Defiance Park, 12 foot separated shared use trail; inner loop connecting major destinations; construction should start in about 18 months.

Ruston Way Visioning process; big discussions about bike-ped facility; recent community workshop showed agreement on need for bike path separate from walking path. Public sees Ruston Way as a people place; wants more activity with control of traffic. Working to coordinate with City of Tacoma's Schuster Parkway Promenade Plan (may be topic for future presentation). Bike facility would include other wheeled vehicles such as scooters; all wheeled vehicles over 10 mph. Not yet working on design; space constraints and asphalt permeability constraints in some areas. Conversations included consideration of road changes: frequent temporary closures, one-way traffic, etc. Chris suggests talking more about Shared Streets model.

Swan Creek in latter stages of master plan update; dog off-leash area part of master plan that should be adopted by park board in January 2019 with construction starting 1-1.5 years later. Off-leash area not one of projects listed in grant funding documents but is being included in overall project.

What can FGT do to help process: support exemption from limits to impervious pavement in shoreline area for facilities decreasing automobile use. Would probably require city code amendment. City (public works, planning, and environmental services) has been involved in planning process which is good. There will be 2 parking areas for Swan Creek; one near Lister School; total 100-120 spaces. Dog park and traffic garden will be part of initial construction. Traffic garden will cover about 1 acre of space so will be larger than many.

Consent Agenda October minutes; financial report; Executive Director Report; George moved, Andrew seconded motion to approve Consent Agenda with correction of 2 typos in minutes; motion approved.

Fund Raising Jane did good work on sponsorships before conference; budget is OK. Have received board pledges from all but 3 board members; Jane will contact them. Jane has scheduled emails to promote Giving Tuesday and will be putting that on Facebook as well.

Board Recruitment & 2019 Officers

Board terms are ending for Andrew Austin, Bob Myrick, and Shawn Phelps. Mary moves to reappoint, George seconded; motion approved. Terry is willing to continue as president for another year; George would continue as treasurer. Executive Committee recommends having one person serve as Vice President & Secretary (is allowed under bylaws); Alan is willing to fill that role. Executive Director will take minutes at meetings; secretary will review. Motion to approve slate of Terry, Alan, & George made by Shawn, seconded by George; approved.

Board members should think about ideas for new board members. Rick Talbert has been serving on Advisory Board as representative of County Council; his term is ending so will need replacement. Consider inviting Derek Young, David Morrell, or Marty Campbell. Dave Morrell might be a good choice for expanding backgrounds and working across the political spectrum. Also consider inviting Rick Talbert to join active board. Another good addition would be someone from TPCHD or other health organization. Jenn Halverson-Kuehn would be a good choice. Might consider Eric Hanberg. Board is heavy on trail planners; consider adding program people or trail users. One member of the Mountaineers Board signed up for conference; Jane will try to identify, see if he attended, and perhaps contact him.

Trails Conference Debrief

Overall was very good. 71 people attended; 10 no-shows. Facility was nice; walk was good with about 15 people. Panels were good and well-received. Registration fees balanced expenses with \$13.57 net. Silent auction/gift baskets brought in \$270; good to do that again with more items and promotion. Big suggestions: more time for interaction; maybe 2 speakers/panel with more time for discussion. Could refine Breaking News section next year; have person from each jurisdiction speak for 3-4 minutes about their own current projects.

State Trails Conference

Terry attended. Take-a-ways included impressive work by WTA with Youth Corps; perhaps could weave that into next year's trails conference. Good presentation on King County's Trail Direct program – two-year pilot project with transit to trailheads. Minority groups are already using trails and need to be recognized.

Regional Trails Summit

Jane attended. Very focused on King County. Good attendance. Jane will follow future developments and stay involved if this is truly a regional focus. Presentation on branding and consistent signage. Could consider working to develop plan for Pierce County - consistent signage; regional trails & local trails identified. Perhaps requesting funding from AT COI for consultant.

Action Plan Update

Good work on most objectives; poor job of contacting elected officials and jurisdictional staff. Jane would like to concentrate on that in first part of 2019; find out what is being planned, what might be in budget, what FGT could do to help. No official board meeting in December; instead will have small group meet to plan January planning meeting. Jane will send message out asking for interest in joining that meeting at same time & place as usual board meeting.

Terry would like to get Advisory Board involved in annual planning. Would be a good idea to get them involved in planning; might lead to getting them more involved in projects to contribute. Jane will send a Save-the-Date notice soon to invite them.

Trail Updates & News

Rich asked Jean White, King County Parks, about plans for connections to Pierce County; she said Interurban connections are not in their 6-year plan. This might be an area of emphasis for us to pursue. King County is working on White River bridge between Enumclaw and Buckley. Strange gaps in Interurban Trail in Algona near county line. Pacific has been building some trails and bike lanes but not really connected.

Mary says King County has a Parks Directors Network that meets monthly. They have held joint meetings with the Pierce County group. She could contact them to see what their topics are for next year to see if there is anything relevant to Pierce County.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates: December 12 – small group planning meeting
January 9, 2019: Annual Planning Meeting Noon – 4 pm

Executive Committee meetings are usually held 7-10 days before the next board meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 1/3/19, 2 pm, [Urban Timber Coffee, Microbrew & Wine](#) 6621 166th Ave E, Sumner

ForeverGreen Vision Statement:

A countywide system of trails connecting all of Pierce County's communities. The system links sidewalks, bike lanes, and local pathways into an integrated network for safe, convenient, non-motorized travel.

ForeverGreen Mission Statement:

To educate on the importance of and advocate for the funding and implementation of a system of multi-use trails that links each community and jurisdiction in Pierce County and to promote public stewardship of trails. ForeverGreen will work inclusively with all interested trail stakeholder and user groups to promote coordinated policy, direction, and priorities for trail plan implementation and operations.