

ForeverGreen Board Meeting
November 12, 2008
Tacoma Metro Parks, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ernie Bay, Skip Ferrucci, Kirsten Frandsen, Jayme Gordon Pleasants, Kirk Kirkland, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, and Barbara Skinner.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon. Vice-President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:14 p.m. President Ernie Bay ran the meeting upon his arrival about 10 minutes later.

Approval of Minutes:

- *Kirk moved to approve the October board meeting minutes as presented. Kirsten seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Finances:

- *Budget* – A copy of the current budget (dated 11-12-08) was handed out. John suggested that a year-end financial report be developed; this would be something we could share with funders. Kirsten suggested that the TPCHD could help pay for some of our annual operating costs (e.g. copying, printing, etc.). She asked that we draft a 2009 budget and identify what we would need from her so she can get approval from the TPCHD. Jayme presented an invoice for her third quarter salary as well as copies, postage, and mileage. The total amount was \$1,410.90. *Barbara moved to approve payment of the invoice. Jane seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*
- *Sales Tax Committee* – Kirk is still searching for someone to sponsor our bill in Olympia. A meeting is set for later this afternoon with the committee that will help move this bill through the legislature. Kirk is working on putting together some sort of event for lobby day in Olympia early next year, and at the TAC meeting, he asked people to write to their local legislators in support of this bill. Jayme reported that one TAC member, John Selby, had written his legislators and sent copies of his letter to her.
- *Lobbyist* – Kirk has begun searching for a lobbyist to help with the sales tax legislation and has had to eliminate a few choices because of a conflict of interest. In his research, Kirk has determined that \$12,000 is the amount we should expect to pay for a lobbyist to devote part of his/her time to our cause. It is anticipated that there will be about \$8,000 in the 2009 budget. Ernie made a call for personal contributions from board members to bridge the gap. Tim suggested that our lobbyist partner with other lobbyists from sympathetic organizations so that ForeverGreen's position is strengthened in Olympia. Barbara stated that she strongly supports hiring a lobbyist now, even though it may deplete our annual operating fund, because if we don't move forward now, we "might as well take a nap." A question was raised about how it will be ensured that funds from the sales tax proposal will be distributed as intended, followed by a discussion about a need for vigilance on this matter. Another question was asked about the legitimacy of using funds to hire a lobbyist. This issue was brought up with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation; they support the use of funds for this purpose. *Kirk moved to hire a lobbyist and pay them up to \$5,000 before the end of 2008 and up to \$5,000 or more in 2009. Barbara seconded the motion. Tim amended the motion to strike the specific amount that will be paid in the installments, although*

authorization to spend a total of \$10,000 was alright. Barbara seconded the amendment. The amended motion was approved unanimously, with one abstention (Kirsten).

- *Greater Tacoma Community Fund Contract – Kirk met with Rose Lincoln Hamilton, President of the GTCF, to draft a contract between the Foundation and ForeverGreen. While ForeverGreen is registered as a non-profit with the State of Washington, we use the Foundation’s 501 c 3 status. The contract formalizes ForeverGreen’s relationship with the Foundation. Among other things, it clarifies that the Foundation will create a “ForeverGreen Fund” and will continue to act as the fiscal agent for ForeverGreen. The Foundation will be paid a nominal administrative fee for their oversight. Tim motioned to accept the contract developed between ForeverGreen and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and authorize Ernie to sign it. Jane seconded the motion. Discussion followed about the unease of some board members to approve the contract when they had not had a chance to give it careful review. Tim motioned to table the original motion until all board members had more time to review the contract. Barbara seconded the motion. More discussion followed, with a motion from Tim to withdraw his motion. Barbara seconded the withdrawal. This was followed by a motion from Tim to withdraw the original motion to accept the contract. Barbara seconded this motion. John motioned to electronically distribute the contract to all board members for review until November 19; if no negative comments are received by this time, then the board authorizes Ernie to sign the contract. Any negative feedback that is received needs to be forwarded to Kirk so he can renegotiate the contract with the Foundation. Tim seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

Old Business:

- *Trails Advisory Committee – Tim gave a report on the Trails Advisory Committee that was held October 29. One idea that was offered during the TAC meeting was for ForeverGreen to host a “Green Drinks” event next year. The Green Drinks program is a once-a-month, informal social event for the greater environmental community. The sponsor chooses the location (usually a bar or restaurant), helps with promotion and advertising, and says a few words at the beginning of the gathering. But other than that, there is no formal agenda and it provides a relaxed atmosphere for discussion and networking. Four dates are still available for 2009; after a brief discussion, the board chose November 5, 2009, as the Green Drinks event that ForeverGreen would like to host. Jayme will get back to the Green Drinks coordinator with that request. Another idea that came out of the TAC meeting was to have a sign-up list at the Trails Conference for people who would like to join the TAC.*
- *Trails Conference – Discussion took place about the annual Pierce County Trails Conference coming up on December 4. Major items of discussion were the tasks that still needed to be filled, which organizations were bringing displays, and other status updates.*
- *Officer Elections – Tim agreed to be nominated for the role of vice-president for 2009.*
- *Board Member Recruitment – Kirk confirmed that he will contact Mary Dodsworth, Larry Seaquist, and Debbie Regala about the board. From the TAC,*

Tim suggested Scott Gallacher, Brianna Charbonnel, Diane Wiatr, and Joe Kane. Jane suggested someone from Group Health should be asked to join the board.

- *Annual Retreat* – In lieu of the usual January board meeting, the annual ForeverGreen board retreat will be January 14, 2009, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Jayme will work to reserve a meeting site. Agenda items for the board retreat will be solicited via email and/or confirmed by the executive committee.

New Business:

- *Trail Recognition Awards* – Tim provided an overview of the Trails Advisory Committee discussion about the Trail Recognition Award(s). The TAC had input on the guidelines, award structuring, and nominees. Among other things, the TAC suggested five award categories: a place or project, lifetime achievement for an individual, an individual with a particularly outstanding year, a governmental organization, and a non-governmental organization. A minimum of 2-3 awards will be given each year in any of the five categories. A list of nominees drafted by the TAC was presented and voted on. Dixie Gatchel was chosen to receive the Individual Award, and the Chambers Creek Properties the Place/Project Award.
- *December Board Meeting* – Discussion took place as to whether to hold or cancel the December 10 board meeting. *Kirk moved to cancel the December board meeting, and to schedule the Executive Committee meeting for the afternoon of December 10. John seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

News, Updates, and Announcements:

- Information sharing was passed over in the interest of time.

Closing Comments:

- Ernie confirmed that the Washington State Trails Coalition has chosen Tacoma for their 2010 conference. Planning for the conference is pretty loose at this stage, but he will work to ensure that ForeverGreen will be involved and help co-sponsor the event.
- Tim announced that the Eatonville Trail Plan has just been released and can be reviewed on the Town's website.
- Jayme shared an invitation to ForeverGreen to have a booth at the Julia's Gulch event the coming weekend (Nov. 15). While the invitation was appreciated, it was too short of notice for anyone to be able to attend.
- John announced that there will be a presentation later in November of Tacoma's Open Space and Habitat Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

The annual Board Retreat will replace the next board meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2009, 12:00-4:00 p.m., location TBA.