

ForeverGreen Board Meeting
October 8, 2008
Tacoma Metro Parks, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Jake Fey, Kirsten Frandsen, Jayme Gordon Pleasants, Kirk Kirkland, and Terry Lee.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon. President Ernie Bay opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Finances:

- *Funding update* – Buckley sent a letter in response to the ForeverGreen funding request and declined to contribute. No other cities have responded to the letter. Sumner and Tacoma Metro Parks recently confirmed that they would be paying their annual contribution for 2008, although no money from either has been received to date. Sumner also notified Jayme that funding for ForeverGreen will be cut from the city's next budget.
- *Budget* – Kirk and Jayme met Oct. 6 to go over the budget. Approximately \$18k was carried over from 2007; about half of this (\$9,000) is grant money set aside to pay for the Parametrix study of the Puyallup-Fife-Tacoma connection. Add in the funding promised from Metro Parks and Sumner, as well as \$5,000 allotted to ForeverGreen by Pierce County, and we expect to be solvent through the end of the year, even after figuring in major expenses such as the trails conference and the executive director's salary. *Ernie moved to accept the budget update. Terry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Old Business:

- *Trails Assistance updates* – Kirk and Bryan went to a meeting in September with Parametrix and the Fife Parks Director to discuss Fife's trail plan. Also in September, Kirk met with the Puyallup Tribe to present some ideas and possible trail routes through Tribe property – for example: a trail along the south bank of the river to the tribal cemetery, a spur to the Chief Leschi School, three alternatives through the casino area, and a bridge over the river to link with Frank Albert Road in Fife. Kirk is waiting to hear back from the Tribe with their input.
- *Train to Mountain Excursion* – John Olson asked Jayme to share his report from the train ride to Northwest Trek. He and Jane went on September 27 and he said it was fabulous. It made them excited about the idea of a trail being built through this corridor.
- *Trails Advisory Committee* – The main item on the agenda for the TAC meeting is the trail award program. Tim and Kirk have drafted some guidelines and criteria which they will present to the TAC members. The gist of it is that each year, one person and one place or trail project will be given an award. Discussion followed about some possible nominees for each of these awards. Another suggested TAC agenda topic was using the Tacoma Wheelmen's list of trail issues as a prompt for discussion about what connections those on the TAC may have to help resolve

these problems. Kirk said that he would have the fall newsletter ready to go out about a week before the TAC meeting.

- *Annual Trails Conference* – The keynote speaker has been locked in: Charles Montange, first general council for the national Rails to Trails Coalition. State Senator Jim Kastama has been confirmed to present the sales tax initiative with Kirk and Barbara. Still in the works is finalization of the official invitation (to be done soon) and confirming the session speakers and displays. On-going planning is underway to work out other nuts and bolts of the conference (e.g. registration, breakout session moderators, etc.).
- *Other* – Kirk has drafted a list of committee members to help on the legislative committee. He is looking to set a date for the first meeting of this committee in early-mid November.

New Business:

- *Officer Elections for 2009* – Jane is in place to succeed Ernie as President at the annual meeting. Kirk will stay on as Secretary-Treasurer. A nominee is needed for Vice President. Ernie noted that, depending on how things work out, he would be willing to stay on as President if needed.
- *Board Member Recruitment* – Discussion about possible new board members took place. Ideas included city engineers, planners, council members (e.g. from cities such as Puyallup, Sumner, and Lakewood), tribe representatives. Specific people suggested were: Larry Seaquist, Kurt Miller, Lyle Quasim, and to re-approach former board members.
- *Annual Retreat Planning* – Similar to the past several years, a half-day board retreat is scheduled for the second Wednesday in January (January 14). This is the once a year opportunity to discuss issues in-depth and conduct strategic planning.
- *Other* – Ernie, Jane, and Bryan attended the Washington State Trails Conference. At the conference, the Foothills Coalition nominated Tacoma as the host for the next state conference in 2010, which was approved by the state committee. Ernie's idea is that the Foothills Coalition and ForeverGreen could work together to co-host this event. He will be in contact with the Washington State Trails Coalition to find out how this would work and what we'll need to get started.

News, Updates, and Announcements:

- *Terry* – Phase 2 of the Cushman Trail broke ground recently. The deal between Tacoma and the County over the Narrows Airport has been completed, and PenMet Parks will be helping with development of public space on the property. He is working with the ACHIEVE fitness and wellness group, and the county council is considering a proposed resolution on fitness. Park budget discussions are about to start. Also, more Narrowgate meetings have been held recently.
- *Kirsten* – The new Tacoma-Pierce County Walking Guide is finished and she brought some to hand out. Eight thousand were printed and she took suggestions for how and where they could be distributed. The Obesity Prevention Conference at the end of September went well, with about 150 people in attendance. She passed out a Priority Action Plan that was developed at the conference, and one of the top priorities was “creating built environments” – e.g. trails. She requested a blurb about ForeverGreen to include in the Community Action Plan for Obesity Prevention in Pierce County. She is meeting with Rep. Larry Seaquist regarding state support for Pierce County's Healthy Eating and Active Living initiatives. She

also is taking suggestions for questions to ask in an upcoming telephone survey of Tacoma residents about biking and walking.

- *John* – The Cascade Land Conservancy’s Pierce County luncheon on September 25 raised about \$135,000. He extends his thanks to the ForeverGreen board for supporting CLC’s work.
- *Ernie* – Reported on progress of the South Prairie-Buckley section of trail, part of which is on hold until next year because construction wasn’t completed by the time the fish window (i.e. the permit) closed.

Closing Comments:

- The next Executive Committee meeting will be held prior to the TAC meeting on October 29 at Snake Lake at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

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