

**ForeverGreen Council Board Retreat
Tacoma Nature Center
January 14, 2015**

In Attendance: Barbara Skinner, Bob Myrick, Brianna Charbonnel, Bryan Bowden, Buzz Grant, Chris Beale, Diane Wiatr, Ernie Bay, George Walk, Jane Moore, Kendall Reid, Shawn Phelps, Tony Tipton

President Bryan Bowden called the meeting to order at 12:34pm. Chris Beale made a motion to adopt the November 2014 minutes and Barbara Skinner seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report Executive Director Jane Moore distributed a handout that shows the actualized 2014 budget and the projected 2015 budget.

2014 Final Report- Jane mentioned that she had not received the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation final quarter report for 2014, so there would need to be adjustments. She revealed that there was over \$3050 in individual contributions, so the full \$3000 match from the anonymous donor was received.

2015 Budget – Jane prepared the estimated 2015 budget without many changes from 2014. She estimated \$2500 from city contributions, since we will have more outreach this year. This is subject to change. The PWI (Puyallup Watershed Initiative) estimate of \$7500 is 2nd year COI actions that are identified as ForeverGreen areas of responsibility. This could change, as there is a lot of uncertainty in PWI funding. Not all of 2014 PWI funds have been expended and there may be more funding in 2015 from an upcoming 2016 allocation if the ask is made in 2015. Jane will follow-up with the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) and Tacoma Wheelmen on contributions. Jane will have revised budget to discuss at the February Board meeting.

Fundraising – The Greater Tacoma Community (GTCF) provides ForeverGreen with the names of contributors, but not gift amounts. GTCF sends out thank you letters. Jane will check to see when letters go out and what the letters say and if ForeverGreen Trails is recognized in the letter. We may want a more direct, personalized thank you from ForeverGreen Trails. Jane will report back on this at next Board meeting.

The typical personal contacts for contributions will be made. An enhanced effort to reach out to cities and towns will occur and we will look for additional sponsorships with other organizations such as the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition and the Tacoma Wheelmen.

Puyallup Watershed Initiative ForeverGreen is responsible for the following four PWI activities in 2015 and funded at \$4100 for them.

1. Develop a whitepaper explaining the complexity of building a countywide trail system
2. Inventory of available right-of-way, utility easements, and other corridors; hold workshop to prioritize ROW acquisition
3. Convene a workshop of trail stakeholder groups to prioritize list of trail priorities. Make this a useful product for Pierce County Parks
4. Develop a Trail Stewardship program that agencies/organizations can use as a model to increase stewardship

There is an additional \$2000 in the PWI budget for workshops. This may be used for one combined workshop to prioritize trails and inventory corridors.

Board members volunteered to lead the work on the four activities as follows:

1. Bryan Bowden
2. Buzz Grant/Bob Myrick/George Walk as leads – with technical assistance from Shawn/Tony
3. Buzz Grant/Bob Myrick/George Walk as leads – with technical assistance from Shawn/Tony
4. Chris Beale. Expand on adopt-a-trail program that Puyallup recently created and presented to Friends of the Riverwalk

Chris pointed out that a first step for #3 should be to look at plans of County and Cities to inventory priorities. The PWI workprogram specifies that the Community Organizer will help with #2 and #3.

-Break-

ForeverGreen Trails Long Term Goals

-Review Current Long Term Goals

There was discussion of whether we should be more involved in trail events and

stewardship. Chris and George feel that we need to be leaders to get more people on the trails and stewardship. Bryan suggested that we add a 6th goal that reads something like “Partner with agencies and other organizations to promote trail events, stewardship, and public relations.” The Executive Board will wordsmith this. (Refer to revised long terms goals distributed for 2/11/15 Board meeting)

-Add Bond Measure? Bryan proposes that the long term goal of dedicated long-term funding needs to be added to the short term goals. He feels that in preparation for years 2 and 3 of PWI, we need to achieve consensus on how to move forward on long term funding for trails through a bond measure or other mechanism. A public opinion survey is seen as the best way to determine which course to take. Puyallup is in the process of a public opinion survey that will ask similar questions. The consensus was that ForeverGreen will form an exploratory committee regarding trails funding, while waiting to see results of Puyallup bond measure. It was agreed that we should add a short term goal that focuses on beginning the planning for long term funding measure. (Refer to revised short terms goals distributed for 2/11/15 Board meeting)

ForeverGreen Trails Short Term Goals In addition to adding the planning for long term funding to the short term goals, there were numerous additions, deletions, and revisions. Amongst the notable changes was to add the four detailed tasks of the PWI that are the responsibility of ForeverGreen. (Refer to revised short terms goals distributed for 2/11/15 Board meeting for revisions)

Website Jane and Bryan walked the Board through the website: www.forevergreentrails.org. The website includes the history of ForeverGreen, a Meet the Board page, Trail Award winners, links to organizations, an events calendar, goals, meeting minutes, and a contact and feedback page. One suggestion that was approved is to have the heading “Minutes” on the drop down be changed to “Documents” to be more inclusive of other documents – goals, maps, etc.

2015 Trails Conference – 10th Annual The Board decided to keep a similar length of conference, time of year, cost, and format as 2014. Brianna, Bryan, Jane, and Chris volunteered to be on planning committee for the conference. October 29th is the suggested date. Brianna will check on the availability and cost The Star Center in South Tacoma. A tour of the Star Center and the surrounding Metro

Parks property may be held in conjunction with the conference.

News, Updates, and Announcements

- The annual Bike Swap will be held at UPS May 2.
- Diane will make a presentation at 6pm on January 29th at UPS on Tacoma's active transportation success in 2014
- Tony asked that people do all they can to petition the legislature for at least \$75 million for RCO funding, which will ensure funding of the last section of the Foothills Trail between South Prairie and Buckley.
- Buzz informed the group that the Town of Wilkeson will soon be adding a trail connection through downtown to their section of the Foothills Trail.
- Buzz mentioned that the FRTTC annual meeting and election of board members on January 22nd at High Cedars at 6pm. The cost is \$15. RSVP to Buzz or Pat Johnson.
- George Walk talked about his recent trip to Singapore and how amazing it was how they have integrated land use and transportation as part of their strategy to improve public health and reduce poverty. There is a well developed bike and pedestrian system that is still expanding, as well as great mass transit.
- Bob Myrick mentioned that 2015 has been designated as the "Year of the Bike" in Tacoma. The Tacoma Wheelmen are sponsoring a showing of the film "Aftermass: Bicycling in a Post-Critical Mass Portland" on February 12th at 6:30pm at the Grand Cinema. There is only capacity for 100 people, so arrive early.
- Bob said he has had some discussion with Tacoma Rail representative about possible acquisition of property along rail line for a trail.
- Ernie informed the group that Puyallup is working to acquire 3 properties to extend the Riverwalk trail from SR 512 to the park, which is a missing link. Design and construction could occur shortly after if property is acquired.
- Chris said that the City of Puyallup is working to acquire property for a trail connection between several of their parks. He also mentioned that Tacoma has just completed Phase 3 of the Water Ditch Trail and has completed the Wapato Hills Master Plan and design of trails there is underway.

Bryan adjourned the retreat at 4:03pm.