

ForeverGreen Board Meeting
April 8, 2009
Tacoma Metro Parks, Tacoma
12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Attended: Ernie Bay, Brianna Charbonnel, Jayme Gordon Pleasants, Kirk Kirkland, Terry Lee, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, Dave Seago, and Barbara Skinner.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon Pleasants. President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

- *Brianna moved to approve the March board meeting minutes as presented. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Finances:

- Jayme presented the 2009 Operating Budget and the current Profit and Loss Statement.
- In other funding news, an application for \$5,160 from the Pierce County Council was just submitted and we hope to be able to start charging to it soon.
- No upcoming expenses are expected other than the first quarter invoice from Jayme.

Sales Tax Legislation:

- ForeverGreen's sales tax legislation did not pass the Senate. At the moment, we are waiting to see if there is other legislation in the House that we can tag on to, but that is not looking very likely.
- Kirk is to meet with Jim Hedrick (ForeverGreen's lobbyist) to discuss next year's strategy. Barbara asked about how we will pay for next year's lobbying effort. Kirk proposed the idea of asking the Tacoma Wheelmen and/or Foothills Coalition to partner in the lobbyist funding next year.
- John requested a report on this year's legislative attempt.
- Terry noted that the Pierce County delegation has a higher priority for public safety and mental health, meaning it will be tougher for them to entertain a local trails/parks tax option.
- Tim suggested a re-evaluation of the funding approach ForeverGreen is seeking – i.e. it seems like a good time to re-examine whether a local sales tax is the right approach.

Old Business:

- Trails Advisory Committee Meeting – Jayme and Tim met to discuss and plan the spring TAC meeting. A tentative date of May 6 was set, but Jayme is having trouble locating a meeting space. Tim and Jayme are also working on letters to current and prospective new TAC members in an attempt to revive membership. Barbara reminded everyone of the desire of city staffers to meet and talk with each other about trail projects, and that perhaps the TAC should consider organizing such a meeting.

- Annual Trails Conference – Jayme has approval from the Puyallup Methodist Church for either Nov. 18 or 19. A consensus of the board confirmed the date of November 19, 2009. In regards to the state trails conference in 2010, Jayme contacted the organizers to confirm the next scheduled planning meeting, which is planned for late April/early May. She will let Barbara and Ernie know when that meeting is set so that they can participate in the conference call. Discussion followed about communication problems with some members of the Foothills Coalition in regards to the state conference, and Jane emphasized the need to get clarification and confirmation about what ForeverGreen is expected to help with.
- Long-Range Plan for Open Space – Kirk and Bryan have been meeting with county council members to discuss. Terry said he is waiting on comments from Kathy Kravit-Smith before introducing any legislation on this to the council. A grant to the National Park Service is also being drafted.

New Business:

- Foothills Coalition Meeting – Jane, Kirk, and Bryan gave a good presentation to the Foothills Coalition on March 26. ForeverGreen’s objective at this meeting was to clarify the role and purpose of ForeverGreen and improve communication between the two groups. Many Foothill members had general questions about ForeverGreen that we have been trying to communicate for years. This underscored the point that ForeverGreen will need to be more proactive about getting our message out, and that the burden of conversation is on us. Towards the end of the meeting, however, Foothills Executive Director Markus Dennis began harshly questioning Jane about ForeverGreen’s role in the state trails conference. This was seen as a perfect example of the kind of communication problems currently being experienced. Discussion followed.
- What’s Next for ForeverGreen? – Due to a lack of time, this agenda item was put off until the May meeting. In the meantime, board members were asked to review the 2009 short term goals that were drafted at the January board retreat and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- Puyallup-Tacoma Trail Study – Kirk, Bryan, and Curt Warber (Parametrix) met with the Tribe, who liked the Puyallup-Tacoma trail proposal. The Tribe will re-write the draft to make it their own and present it to the tribal council for approval. Still included in this plan is the “spine” connecting Puyallup and Tacoma that is ForeverGreen’s main goal.

Information Sharing:

- John – ForeverGreen will give a presentation on April 16 to the Cascade Land Conservancy’s “Tacoma Community Stewards Campaign Planning Meeting.”
- Terry – Will be doing a t.v. spot tomorrow about the popularity of the new Pierce County Bike Map.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.