

**ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting
Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters
Minutes for April 13, 2016**

In Attendance: Chris Beale, Brianna Charbonnel, Buzz Grant, Jane Moore, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Terry Reid, Rick Talbert, Tony Tipton, George Walk, Mark Williams
Guests: Alan Carter Mortimer, Mary Dodsworth

President Chris Beale called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Review and Approve Minutes Terry moved approval of the minutes, George seconded. The motion was approved.

Financial Update Executive Director Jane Moore presented the latest financial numbers, which are shown on the agenda. There was discussion that we need to print more brochures, as there are only about 10 copies left. Buzz moved that we get 1000 copies printed, Shawn seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Director Report- Jane has been working on Trails Conference. She met with Director of Pierce County Medical Society about potential collaboration. PCMS Director noted that an on-line source of trail maps sorted or searchable by vicinity would help physicians recommending walking for health.

Advocacy Training – The first session will be on May 10th at Puyallup Library from 5-6pm before the City Council meeting at 6:30. Jane needs to line up a Council member to attend. The County Council has an Open Space meeting on April 18th. Chris and Jane will make a short presentation at this meeting.

Applying for 501c3 Non-profit status has not moved forward yet. Jane will increase priority of this on her to do list. Administrative policies will also be examined.

Reports & Discussion

Park Impact Fee Working Group report – Buzz reported that Jane, Dixie, Don and he have attended most meetings. Tony updated the Board on the mission of the Working Group and the makeup. There have been seven meetings so far. The group is to point of deciding what proposals the group can and cannot agree on. The Master Builders want survey of new homeowners on whether they use neighborhood parks or regional parks. Tony is not sure if this can happen. The MBA also wants the PROS plan to be updated. Tony also thinks this can't happen since it was updated in 2014 and most of what MBA is asking for is already in the Plan.

There is not any new proposal on the amount of the fee. Kimberly Freeman of Parks is leading the meetings and there is a consultant helping with the process. The group is scheduled to report to the Council in May. The process could be delayed if consensus isn't reached on certain topics. Rick mentioned that when the Impact Fees were at the Council last year, there was clearly not enough votes to pass the fee increase. The goal is to get to consensus at the Council, but four votes will pass a proposal. Rick isn't hopeful that a fee increase will pass this year, being an election year.

Tony feels that Parks will continue to need to push for impact fees even if they don't pass an increase this year. Tony mentioned that funding to maintain new parks is an issue that has been discussed. Impact fees can only be used to build new parks, since the funds need to be used within 6 years as mandated by State law.

Terry highlighted, and Tony agreed, that it isn't a strictly regional vs. neighborhood parks debate. Tony says

Parks is making the argument that a system of parks includes both regional and neighborhood parks, as well as trails. Rick feels that the big picture should ultimately be a secure and dedicated funding source for Parks, beyond impact fees. Rick says the urban unincorporated area looks and feels like a big city, without the amenities. Chris proposed that ForeverGreen could meet with County Councilmembers. Rick said this would be a good idea after the message comes from the Working Group to the Council. The last scheduled meeting is today, but there will likely be more scheduled. Tony will forward materials from the working group meetings to Chris and Jane.

Trail Survey – Terry Reid passed out a handout showing an outreach plan for surveying trail users, as well as a draft survey. Terry doesn't think the ForeverGreen pamphlet should be given away to respondents, due to its relatively high cost. A business card could be given away to those who are interested in ForeverGreen. Mary suggests adding commuting to the primary activity (#6). Tony suggests that the survey be taken at a trailhead, rather than on the trail. Tony and George suggest that gender identity question be removed. Gender is on the COI survey. Members will try to have this removed at the COI. Chris suggests that question 2 be changed to how often do you use "local" trails, rather than a specific trail. The Board concurred on this revision. Chris suggested that an open ended question be added to the survey to ask "what amenities should be added to this trail" and "what other trails should be built in this community". Mary suggested that "How many are in your group today?"

Trail Conference Planning – Jane, George, and Barbara are on the Trails Subcommittee and met recently. The suggested date for the Conference is Thursday, September 29th. The Board agreed on this date. The Subcommittee suggested that the conference be in downtown Tacoma. The old post office is probably too small. The Washington State History Museum is between \$125-150 per hour. The UW Tacoma would cost \$1400, unless sponsored by a professor which brings it down to \$750. It was decided that Jane would check into getting a sponsor at UW Tacoma. It was suggested that more networking time be allowed. Jane said the subcommittee wants to have table discussions answering a couple questions. There will be a keynote speaker and one panel discussion. Jane has some ideas on keynote speakers that the Subcommittee will discuss.

Communications & Outreach Plan Update – Chris presented an outline for the Outreach and Communications. He went over the topics that he is proposing to include in the quarterly newsletter. The newsletter will likely be 3-4 pages and be done in Mail Chimp. Chris is planning to have the first newsletter out this month. Chris is coordinating with Washington Trails Associated for tips. He also plans to have a blog, where new articles are posted monthly. As a new ideas, he proposed that we have an event on or near National Trails Day (June 4th) and that we consider certifying jurisdictions as "trail communities" annually. Alan mentioned that there is a Washington Trails Day in August, that ForeverGreen could piggyback on.

News, Updates, and Announcements

Shawn informed the Board that Pierce County staff will present at the May Board meeting on the Canyon Road Extension.

Tony mentioned the County has put out to bid the 1.3 miles of the Foothills Trail south of Buckley. Bids are due April 29th and the groundbreaking will be June 7th.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.