

ForeverGreen Board Retreat
January 13, 2010
Lakewood Community Center, Lakewood
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Attended: Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Brianna Charbonnel, Jayme Gordon, Kirk Kirkland, Kathy Kravit-Smith, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, David Seago, and Barbara Skinner.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon

Open and Introduction: ForeverGreen President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

December Board Meeting Minutes:

- *Kirk motioned to approve the December board meeting minutes as presented. Tim seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

Budget

- The 2009 year-end budget was presented. The only items not included are 4th quarter fees, etc. from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF), which we will not know until they send us their 4th quarter statement. Besides the outstanding 4th quarter GTCF fees, the ending balance for 2009 is \$9,983.58.
- A proposed 2010 budget was presented. Discussion followed. This draft budget compared 2010's anticipated income and expenses to actual income and expenses from 2009.
- *Kirk motioned to include a contribution of up to \$500 to help sponsor the WSTC conference's social mixer event in the 2010 budget expenses. Kathy seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. A \$200 expense to co-sponsor Transportation Advocacy Day (previously approved at the December board meeting) was also added to the 2010 budget expenses.*
- The difference between cash reserves on 1-1-10 (\$9,983) and proposed expenses (\$14,000-\$15,000) shows there is a shortfall of approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 that must be made up during the year to keep the 2010 budget in the black.
- *Kathy motioned to approve the 2010 budget as presented (with amendments noted above). Ernie seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

Fundraising

- Tim and Kirk met with the Tacoma Wheelmen Bicycle Club (TWBC) in December. They received neither a supportive or negative response. The TWBC is concerned about jeopardizing their relationship with the Foothills Coalition by giving financial support to ForeverGreen. But the door was not completely shut on our funding request, especially if we were really in need of help. Kirk and Tim will revisit the TWBC after their Daffodil Classic ride later this spring.
- The board needs to continue repairing our relationship with the Foothills Coalition, reach out to sympathetic Foothills members, and present a proposal to the Coalition later in the year.
- Discussion about other funding options took place. Suggestions included: Forest Foundation/Grantmakers, Russell Foundation, Peter Stanley, Milgard, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Living, Franciscan Health Care, Multicare, and more.

Short and Long Term Goals:

- The only change made to the long term goals was to add the word “system” to Goal #5 so that it now reads as follows: “Complete an east-west trail system from Puget Sound to Mount Rainier....”
- Last year’s short term goals were reviewed and evaluated. Some of the goals were met; others will remain on the list as goals for 2010; and some new goals were added.
- The new list of goals for 2010 will be presented at the February board meeting for formal adoption.
- It was suggested that the Executive Committee develop a 2010 work plan from the short term goals to present at the February board meeting.

Sales Tax Legislation:

- The Senate and House bills are now the same, which is good. Kirk will be following up with legislators throughout January and will be working to get the bill(s) through the respective committees.
- Transportation Advocacy Day is January 28, which ForeverGreen has agreed to co-sponsor with Transportation Choices. Kirk will spearhead a letter writing and email campaign. He handed out a sample letter that included legislators’ contact information.

WSTC Conference:

- Ernie, Barbara, and Jayme met with the WA State History Museum at the end of December, and are working with their events staff on a contract to hold a social function there on the Friday of the conference. Ernie will be soliciting donations to help pay for this event, which will probably cost a minimum of \$3,000.
- Other issues being handled by the WSTC Conference Host Committee (Ernie and Jayme, co-chairs) are: identifying the conference venue and coordinating logistics; coordinating the social mixer at the history museum; overseeing the tours offered as part of the conference; and working with the publicity committee to promote the conference.
- Anyone interested in helping with the host committee or one of the other committees working on the conference should let Ernie or Jayme know.

Puyallup-Tacoma Trail Update:

- The proposed plan had been moving through the Puyallup Tribe’s planning department on its way to the Tribal Council. However, recent internal issues at the Tribe have put its progress on hold for now.

Open Space Task Force:

- Kirk and Jane will be representing ForeverGreen on the Open Space Task Force.
- The task force’s first meeting is set for January 27, 5-7 p.m. at the Lakewood Community Center.

New Board Members:

- There is a need for new, active board members. There are currently a few vacancies on the board.
- Jake Fey has told Kirk he would like to stay on the board, but has difficulty attending meetings due to his work schedule. He has suggested finding another member of the Tacoma City Council to take his place. Kirk will follow up on this once all the seats on the city council have been filled.

- Kirk has also spoken with Kendall Reid about joining the board. Ernie and Barbara will talk with Pat Johnson about joining; Ernie will approach Jim Kastama; Barbara will talk with Lyle Quasim; and John Olson will approach John Selby about his interest in joining the board.

Bylaw Changes:

- ForeverGreen is currently not in compliance with some of its bylaws. Some of the issues include too many board members (currently have 20; bylaws state a maximum of 15); meeting notices being sent via email; annual meeting date; and the issue of membership.
- A vote to change any of the bylaws requires approval by 3/5 of the board members, and the voting date must be advertised 30 days in advance.
- It was decided that proposed changes to the bylaws would be discussed at the next Executive Committee, then brought to the February board meeting for a decision.

Other:

- In order to better capture the in-kind contributions made by board members, the following suggestion was made: Each month, board members should track and report the time they spend on ForeverGreen related activities. This time can be shown as a financial contribution, which will illustrate the value and work that is not reflected in our bare bones budget and capture the work that board members do on a voluntary basis.

Information Sharing:

- John – The Cascade Land Conservancy spent \$32 million on conservation and acquired 13,000 new acres in 2009.
- Ernie – Burlington Northern rail road has agreed on a design for the Puyallup Riverwalk-Foothills Trail connection. But part of this connecting link is not accessible because it is on private property.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.