

Forever Green Council Board Monthly Meeting  
March 8, 2012  
Metropolitan Parks District Building

Attended by: David Seago, Jane Moore, Kirk Kirkland, Brianna Charbonnel, Chris Beale, Barbara Skinner, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Tony Tipton, Rick Semple, Kendall Reid

**Minutes** taken by Kendall Reid

Meeting called to order at 12:10 by President David Seago.

The minutes of the February 9 Board meeting were approved, with two corrections. (Motion Skinner/second Kirkland/approved)

**Membership:** Rick Semple, a downtown property owner expressed interest in becoming a board member.

**Finance:** Our current financial situation is strong. Expenses including stamps, stationery, Internet hosting and sponsorship for Transportation Advocacy Day were approved. (Motion Skinner, second Beale) The board approved streamlining reporting of expenses directly to the treasurer for approval by executive committee, following a motion to that effect. (Motion Skinner, second Kirkland)

**Budget:** Kirk reported that the fundraising letter for a winter/spring fundraising drive has been sent and an e-mail version and a FG web page version have been created. The Greater Tacoma Foundation will handle electronic donations.

**Government Relations:** Tony reported on the public opinion survey being developed by the Parks Leadership Task Force. The survey will seek to determine what kinds of parks and facilities are valued by citizens in unincorporated areas not served by a parks district and what level of tax support citizens believe is most appropriate. The survey will probably be extended to small cities and towns at no charge. The same survey will be offered to larger cities if they are willing to bear the costs. The survey will be completed by Labor Day and the results will be used to craft a proposal for taxing structure to support parks. The survey will not directly measure support for trails.

Tony also reported on Pierce County's interest in encouraging Puget Sound Electric to acquire an easement well suited for a trail in the area of the River Walk Trail/Foothills Trail gap. PSE is currently surveying to install new power lines from Lake Tapps to Highway 162. They will disclose their route by June and are planning for construction by 2014. Pierce County hopes that PSE will provide a right of way for the trail and that PSE will be willing to contribute to the cost of trail construction.

Tony and Chris will try to provide a map showing the area of a possible PSE proposal for the next board meeting.

Tony further reported that the South Prairie to Buckley right of way acquisition is about to occur. Funding is still needed to complete the trail.

Bob reported that the Tacoma Wheelmen will contribute \$10,000 toward the Bud Blanchard Trail project in Eatonville. The project will need \$150,000 before June 2012 to take full advantage of a RCO grant. Tacoma Wheelmen would like to contribute an additional \$10,000 to another trail project.

Bob also reported that the Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition has acquired land near the Carbon River entrance to Mt. Rainier National Park which it expects to sell to the National Park Service once the Park Service has done an assessment to determine the value of the land. Foothills stepped in when it became clear that the land would become available but that the Park Service would not have the opportunity to purchase the land in a timely manner.

On behalf of FG David sent a letter to Congressional legislators regarding a proposed amendment that cuts funding for trails, walking and biking within the surface transportation bill.

Chris reported on the Coalition for Active Transportation's plans to encourage municipalities to adopt Complete Streets ordinances, active transportation plans and/or health components in sub-area plans. CAT will soon hire a coordinator for this work which is being funded through the Community Transformation Grant.

Jane attended the MLK sub area plan environmental focus group.

**Old Business** Barbara, Kirk and Kendall have met and verified that there is no need for a FG name change but that a tag line, "Connecting people, trails and communities in Pierce County" should be attached to all publications to clarify the purpose of the organization.

The conference planning committee meeting directly follows today's meeting.

**New Business** The Executive Committee nominates Barbara Skinner as Vice President. The nomination was unanimously approved. (Motion Reid, second Phelps)

The FG board unanimously declined to support Pierce Transit's move to reduce the size of its service area.

Bob asked that FG support a request for a trail on the 18-20 wide top of a levy that Surface Water Management will build from I-5 to Puyallup. Surface Water Management has an obligation to provide public access to the levy but has made no indication of a plan for a trail. EIS comments are due by April 13.

### **Upcoming Events**

Meeker Trail extension- March 10 -a work crew will plant new vegetation

10th anniversary of Foothills Trails Coalition's Rainier to Ruston event – June 2

Pierce County Planning Commission April 24, 9:00 am

UPS Bicycle Swap Meet -April 28

May Bike To Work Month

**Adjournment** David adjourned the meeting at 1:40.