

**ForeverGreen Board Meeting  
June 14, 2006  
Tacoma Metro Parks Headquarters**

**Attended:** Ernie Bay (Foothills Trails Coalition), Bryan Bowden (Mt. Rainier National Park), Ron Ernst (Tacoma Rail), Jayme Gordon (Pierce Conservation District), Grant Griffin (PC Parks and Recreation), Jane Moore, M.D. (WCPPA), John Olson (Cascade Land Conservancy), Barbara Skinner (Retired, Mayor of Sumner).

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon.

**Open and Introduction:** 12:15 p.m. The meeting began with round table introductions and sharing of information.

- Ernie: On July 10, the Puyallup city council is expected to give final approval for the section of the Riverwalk Trail from Hwy. 512 to Mama Stortini's, and construction should begin shortly thereafter.
- Grant: Construction plans for the South Prairie to Buckley section of the Foothills Trail are currently under review.
- Ron: Has been invited to join the ForeverGreen Council as a board member. He wanted to learn a little bit more about ForeverGreen before committing, but everyone feels he will be a good addition. Ron said that a feasibility study of the "rails with trails" route from Tacoma to Elbe is almost ready to begin.
- John: The Carbon River properties have closed and are now held by the Cascade Land Conservancy. CLC is also meeting with Pierce Co. Parks on plans for the entire Carbon River Canyon (3 mi.).
- Jane: Shared some of the outcomes from the June 8 "Active Living Leadership Forum." Some of the suggestions that came from the workshop included: using ForeverGreen as a model, publicize trail plans, insure that right of ways are in public ownership for trail development, involve public works departments more in trail building, instead of having park departments bear all the burden, etc.
- Jayme: Facilitated meetings between Auburn, Sumner and Pacific (6/8) and Peninsula Metro Parks, WADOT, and Tacoma (6/12). Both meetings went very well, and ForeverGreen was instrumental in getting all parties pulled together. In Auburn, there was consensus that the city's \$150k grant would be put towards study and design of a trail segment between 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.E. to Stewart Rd. The parties at the Gig Harbor meeting had a chance to meet each other, learn more details associated with the trail plans, and confirm the linkages between the Scott Pearson Trail, the new Narrows Bridge, and the Cushman Trail. Tacoma indicated they could use future assistance with figuring out how to link the Scott Pearson Trail with the city's surface streets, and the Peninsula Parks may need help with future phases of the Cushman Trail.
- Barbara: Informal review of the May board meeting minutes; Helen Engle's name was misspelled and will be corrected. Barbara requested that approval of the previous board meeting's minutes be added to future agendas.

**Finances:**

- A \$5,000 contribution has been received from Pierce Co. Parks. Jayme will be submitting requests for contributions to Tacoma Metro Parks and the city of Sumner.
- Payment was received from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation for Jayme's 2005 salary.
- ForeverGreen needs to solicit funding from jurisdictions we are already working with. Also, we need to follow up with the cities that we have made the ForeverGreen presentation to and solicit contributions along with their signed resolution in support of ForeverGreen.

### **Rainier-to-Ruston Race and National Trails Day:**

- Grant shared the results of a race debriefing meeting he'd had with Markus Dennis, John Selby, and Buzz Grant of the Foothills Coalition. Everyone involved thought the event went very well and was well attended. Pierce Co. Parks will consider increasing their contribution and provide more porta-potties as part of their continued support of this event.
- Disappointment was expressed as to the lack of media coverage of the race, especially in the context of National Parks Day. More effort will be made next year to have the press cover the event.
- Grant also asked whether ForeverGreen would be interested in taking the lead to organize another run, unofficially called the "Run with the Salmon," between Buckley, Wilkeson, and South Prairie this fall. Mayors from all three towns are already on board, and although Markus cannot commit to coordinating this run, he will share his planning and contact information. John suggested that the Pierce Conservation District may be able to partner because of their potential "Salmon Homecoming" event at the Inglin farm outside of South Prairie. He suggested bringing in the Gateway Communities group, too. Jane said the Pierce Co. Wellness Council may be interested in helping as well. It was decided that Grant and Jayme would schedule an organizational meeting as soon as possible with all potential partners. An emergency board meeting may need to be called before the scheduled July meeting to vote on whether or not ForeverGreen will take the lead on coordinating this run, because a coordinator needs to be found as soon as possible given the short lead time. The emergency board meeting was tentatively set for June 28 at the Metro Parks headquarters.

### **Annual Meeting/Trails Conference:**

- A copy of the ideas developed by the events committee for a combined trails conference and annual meeting were distributed. Comments and additions to the draft ideas included:
- We need to wait until the middle of next month to hear from Scott Hall about the availability of the Amphitheater on South Hill. It would be possible to use that facility for free if it was a Pierce Co. Parks event (e.g. if Kathy was master of ceremonies).

- The pros and cons of charging a registration fee were debated. It was generally felt that we should solicit businesses to sponsor the conference, provide door prizes, cater the event, etc. This would help keep costs down, but a small registration fee would help people commit to coming. No final decision was made.
- Other ideas such as including a “State of ForeverGreen” presentation and taking a tour of the new Nathan Chapman trail as one of the breakout sessions were also contributed.

### **Trails Assistance Office Funding:**

- Jayme passed out a proposal from Kirk about the need to identify projects and programs so he can apply for grants. The grant funding would be used to hire a part time grant writer and a coordinator for the Trails Assistance Office to implement these projects and programs.
- The following changes were made to the final list of projects: Carbonado to the high bridge was added to Item #1; the Ashford/Elbe trail was moved from Item #2 to Item #3; the Buckley-South Prairie Trail was removed from Item #3; and the Cascade Junction to Wilkeson/Carbonado was added to Item #3. A revised list showing these changes is attached to the minutes.
- Ernie moved to accept Kirk’s proposal with the aforementioned changes; John seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
- John said the CLC will likely provide a letter of support for this proposal if ForeverGreen wants/needs to include one with the grant application.

### **Newsletter/Brochures:**

- John said he had talked with Dixie Gatchel about doing the e-newsletter and she seemed excited about the idea. Other items relating to the e-newsletter still need to be followed up on.
- Jayme announced that we are getting toward the end of our brochure supply, and she wants to get input on making any changes to the brochures before doing another print run. Due to the shortage of time, she asked that the board revisit this discussion at the next meeting. Barbara said she would like a map to be developed that shows the history of trail construction in Pierce County. Everyone agreed a map like that would be an important resource.

### **ForeverGreen Presentations:**

- No presentations have been scheduled since the last board meeting. Jayme was asked to restate who agreed to schedule presentations to the cities we have not met with yet. From the May board meeting minutes: “Barbara agreed to schedule a ForeverGreen presentation to the city of Pacific, Kirk will schedule Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and University Place, and Bryan will contact the town of Eatonville.”
- Barbara volunteered to speak with Connie Ladenburg about scheduling a ForeverGreen presentation to the Tacoma city council; therefore, Kirk will now just need to schedule with Gig Harbor and University Place.
- Jayme will meet with the YMCA Wellness Cabinet on June 15.

**Closing Comments:**

- Ernie expressed concern about recent news that the city of Fife has been spending all their money on new roads, but none on trails, especially the work that was supposed to have been done along Levee Road. Barbara volunteered to draft a letter from the board on this issue and send it to Fife.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.**

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