

**ForeverGreen Board Meeting**  
**May 13, 2009**  
**Tacoma Metro Parks, Tacoma**  
**12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Attended:** Ernie Bay, Skip Ferrucci, Scott Gallacher, Jayme Gordon, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, Dave Seago, and Barbara Skinner.

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon. President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- *Dave moved to approve the April board meeting minutes with the grammatical correction as noted by Barbara. Scott seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**Special Presentation:**

- Craig Benjamin from the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) presented information about the Tacoma Community Stewards project. This is a grassroots effort to determine priorities in the Tacoma community as part of the CLC's "Cascade Agenda" program.
- Earlier meetings of the Tacoma Community Stewards identified a connected system of bike and walking trails as one of their three priorities.
- One thing that has become apparent early on in this process is that many people at the grassroots level have not heard of ForeverGreen, primarily because ForeverGreen tends to operate on a political level and more "behind the scenes," rather than on a citizen level. Additionally, there are already several groups working on trail issues in Tacoma and Pierce County. There is no desire to create another trail group, but rather to coordinate the existing groups better. This is something CLC said they can help with.
- ForeverGreen was invited to attend the May 28 Tacoma Community Stewards event at The Hub to meet many of the people participating in this movement and to share information about what ForeverGreen is doing. John and David volunteered to represent ForeverGreen at this event.

**Finances:**

- The finance report showed that \$11,633 has been collected since the beginning of the year. Also in that time, \$11,616 has been spent. That means that unless future funding comes in, ForeverGreen will need to use its cash reserves, which is about \$8,100. (Note: The \$11,633 spent so far in 2009 includes the first quarter fees and expenses from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and the first quarter executive director's invoice.)
- In other funding news, Kirk has continued to meet with Metro Parks but we are still waiting for funding to be committed. We should hear from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation in June whether or not our grant request will be funded. And the last word we heard on our contract for the Pierce County Council money was that it was going through accounting and we won't be able to start charging against it until the final contract is signed.

- Jayme presented the first quarter invoice from the Pierce Conservation District, which covered the executive director's salary, mileage, and copies. The total invoice amount was \$2,996.79. *Tim moved to approve payment of the invoice. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*
- Jane shared some final thoughts from Kirk regarding the trails sales tax effort pursued by ForeverGreen in the state legislature this year. Our bill did not pass by the end of this year's session. Our lobbyist worked with Metro Parks' lobbyist, but could not find other legislation to which we could amend our bill. ForeverGreen was told the language of our bill and the fact that our legislation is for long term funding did not help us in what was a very tough budget year. Kirk will be meeting with our lobbyist later in the summer to discuss possible future strategies.

#### **Old Business:**

- Trails Advisory Committee Meeting – The TAC meeting has been rescheduled for the evening of June 10 at the Lakewood Community Center (a.k.a. Pierce County Parks headquarters).
- Annual Trails Conference – A special committee will be formed to develop program ideas and other logistics for the 2009 Pierce County Trails Conference.
- WSTC 2010 State Trails Conference – Jayme, Ernie, and Barbara participated in a conference planning call with other members of the WSTC on April 29. Ernie volunteered to locate a meeting place for the conference planning meeting in Tacoma in the fall. Ernie is also scouting out possible sites to hold the actual conference in 2010. Structure and content of the 2010 conference will be discussed at the meeting in the fall. The WSTC committee was asked if they knew whether or not Markus Dennis was already working on locating a venue for the 2010 conference. They did not.
- Long-Range Plan for Open Space – Language of the resolution is still being worked out before it goes to the county council for resolution. The resolution is also being coordinated with the grant application to the National Park Service.
- Puyallup-Tacoma Trail – Still waiting on input from Puyallup Tribe.

#### **New Business:**

- What's Next for ForeverGreen? – The 2009 short term goals were reviewed with accompanying discussion. Programs and Meetings: Uniform trail standards are to be included in Pierce County's regional trail plan, but they would not address state or individual cities' trail standards. It was suggested that a stand-alone meeting or a special session at the trails conference could focus on trail design/construction standards. Is there a gap on this issue that ForeverGreen could help with by bringing together the Pierce County trail plan, Tacoma's mobility plan, and trail staff from other cities to discuss? Budget and Finance: ForeverGreen's finances are a limiting factor in what this group can do. Funding needs to be a focus area and a funding strategy needs to be developed for 2010 and the rest of 2009. A special budget retreat should be planned to develop this strategy. Communications and PR: A more focused communication plan can help the board zero in on the things it wants to accomplish in the next 12-18 months. Dave floated the idea of having ForeverGreen help sponsor/promote/celebrate local trails in order to draw attention to them and/or enhance usage. Many events like this already exist, but there may be some new opportunities that ForeverGreen could tap into.

- P.C. Executive Meeting – Jane and Kirk met with an assistant from the Pierce County Executive’s office. Suggestions were given on how Kirk might proceed with moving the Puyallup-Tacoma trail plan through the Tribe. The Executive’s office offered to assist with this effort on their end.

**Information Sharing:**

- Ernie asked if the bridge over the wetlands on the new section of the Cushman Trail was holding up construction. Skip said that the project has never been officially on hold and the bridge/wetland issues are being resolved.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.**

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