

# **ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting Metro Parks Tacoma Minutes for June 10, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Skinner, Bob Myrick, Bryan Bowden, Buzz Grant, Chris Beale, David Boe, Diane Wiatr, George Walk, Jane Moore, Lyle Quasim, Shawn Phelps; Guest: Terry Reid

President Bryan Bowden called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm and members introduced themselves. Terry Reid introduced himself as an invited guest and potential new board member. Terry talked about his past and current involvement in trail and parks planning in the Bonney Lake area and the public health profession.

**Review and Approve Minutes** Chris moved approval of the minutes, Barbara seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Financial Report**

- Consider IRS 501c3 application – Bryan mentioned that this was discussed 2 months ago. There is a one-time \$850 fee to become a 501c3. Buzz made a motion that we become a 501c3, Barbara seconded. There was discussion on the pros and cons. Among the advantages are credibility, attractiveness to donors, members being able to deduct their mileage on federal tax returns, ability to apply board member hours to in kind grant contributions. Cons include additional annual paperwork, filing tax returns, and limits ability to lobby and support political campaigns. The motion to become a 501c3 passed unanimously.
- Fund raising campaign update – Jane said that \$1350 has been received directly from individuals. Checks donated through GTCF will not be known until GTCF issues the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report which will likely come in August. Jane pointed to the account balances shown on the agenda, which have not changed from last month. The US Bank balance is \$31,132.55 and the GTCF balance is \$9,469.18. \$30,000 of the balance is reserved for PWI activities. Bryan mentioned that businesses and agencies will be contacted to sponsor the October Trails Conference. Diane suggested that levels of contributions be established with different recognition be given for each level. Diane also recommended that the 2<sup>nd</sup> year COI funds have a task to bring in a consultant to help create financial strategies for nonprofits.

**Board Recruitment** Kurt Reuter of Fife and Andrew Strobel of the Puyallup Tribe have been invited to attend a meeting. David has approached Kevin Dayton of WSDOT to consider having himself or another staff person be on the Board. Ted Hill of Sumner will be invited. Someone from Lakewood may be approached in the future.

## **Short Term Goals - Status Reports**

- Preview next 3-4 months: slate of officers, election – Bryan let members know that we won't have an August meeting. Diane suggested that in August that we have a walk on a trail and picnic on the normal meeting date. Buzz suggested that he lead a walk on the Carbon River Trail (extension of Foothills Trail). There was concern about not being able to do this on a weekday, so it may be done on a weekend and Prairie Line be done on the normal meeting day. Buzz and Diane will work on these ideas.

Brian mentioned that he doesn't intend to run for President again. Discussion on the election of officers will happen in July.

- Update brochure – new draft – Chris shared the latest draft of the brochure. The map needs to be cleaned up. Issues include the Riverwalk Trail being shown as proposed, the word Enumclaw being shown multiple times, and City names appear over trails. Chris and Shawn will work with Pierce County Parks to get obvious map revisions complete. The brochure won't be printed until the map is refined. Bryan asked that the statement that “ForeverGreen is not a membership organization...” needs to have a list of affiliated organizations. Chris said he will change this.
- Pierce County Trails Conference – Location, Keynote Speaker – Jane mentioned the Point Defiance pagoda is available on the proposed October 15<sup>th</sup> date. Chris suggested that we use the Puyallup Activity Center, but it is booked on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Bob suggested that we have a walk on the Silver Creek trail/Meeker Ditch before the conference. There was consensus that the Conference will be moved to October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Puyallup Activity Center. Andrew Austin of the Transportation Choices Coalition has agreed to be the keynote speaker. The ForeverGreen Board meeting that would normally be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> will be moved to October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Maintain public presence through participation in events/dissemination of information –National Trails Day; Dave Seago op-ed.  
Members voiced their appreciation of the recent pro trails op-ed that Dave Seago wrote in the News Tribune. Some Board members agreed that they would talk to County Councilmember Rick Talbert about accelerating trail proposals.
- Puyallup-Tacoma trail link – River Road corridor – next steps  
Bryan suggested that we talk to Andrew Strobel about approaching the Puyallup Tribal Council regarding furthering the Puyallup-Tacoma trail idea. It was decided that we would wait until after the upcoming Tribal Council elections.

Bryan adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.