

**ForeverGreen Board Retreat**  
**February 11, 2009**  
**Snake Lake Nature Center, Tacoma**  
**12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Attended:** Ernie Bay, Brianna Charbonnel, Scott Gallacher, Jayme Gordon Pleasants, Kirk Kirkland, Jane Moore, Tim Payne, David Seago, and Barbara Skinner.

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon Pleasants. President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- *Scott moved to approve the January board retreat minutes as presented. Barbara seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**Short and Long Term Goals:**

- *Barbara moved to approve the long term goals as presented, but with the addition of the date, i.e. "2009." Tim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*
- *Barbara moved to approve the short term goals as presented. Tim seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*
- The approved short and long term goals will be sent to board members with the minutes.

**Finances:**

- The 2008 final budget was held up until Jayme received the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter account statement from the GTCF. The 2008 budget will be presented at the next board meeting.
- The 2009 draft budget is coming together, and it looks like funds will continue to be tight. A \$4,400 invoice from the lobbyist is due in February. Beyond that, no major expenses are expected until April.
- ForeverGreen received \$1,000 from Puyallup (thanks to Ernie's follow up with the City Manager). Invoices have been given to Pierce County Parks and Tacoma Metro Parks; Kirk will follow up on these. Jayme is also working on a grant proposal to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation due in mid-February.

**Sales Tax Legislation:**

- Kirk, Jane, Barbara, Ernie, Kathy Kravit-Smith, Ryan Mello, and others were present at a hearing for the trail funding bill in early February. The hearing went well; the most critical questions came from Derek Kilmur.
- February 25 is the deadline to move the bill out of the Senate committee, otherwise it is dead. In the House, the bill is waiting in the Finance Committee.
- On February 17, ForeverGreen representatives have been invited to a dinner with the Pierce County delegation to discuss the bill.
- Kirk recently met with the Key Peninsula Metro Parks District, and they are not supportive of the legislation. Their main concern at this time has to do with the fact that they are not explicitly named in the bill and fear they will lose out – e.g. they don't trust the possibility of partnerships with the county to work out.

- There is a proposed amendment to the bill that will either allow interlocal agreements between Pierce County Parks, Tacoma Metro Parks, and other jurisdictions/agencies, or allow other metro park districts to compete for monies in the pot of funding available to the cities.
- There have been some meetings between ForeverGreen and individual board members of the Peninsula Metro Parks District. Kirk and Ryan Mello are scheduled to meet with Pen Met's Executive Director on February 13.
- ForeverGreen members had several meetings with the Tacoma Wheelmen in January. Staff from Tacoma was part of the second meeting. The group was able to talk through the issues the Wheelmen had with the legislation and clear up many misconceptions. The Wheelmen have also written a letter of support.
- The issue of funding supplementation is a major issue with the Foothills Coalition. Barbara has scheduled a meeting with the Foothills board and will begin attending Foothills meetings as a ForeverGreen ambassador. There still appears to be some confusion about what ForeverGreen is trying to do. The Foothills Coalition has requested a special presentation from ForeverGreen.

#### **Old Business:**

- The date for the 2009 Pierce County Trails Conference will be finalized at the March board meeting. On the issue of sponsorships for the conference, Brianna will inquire with Franciscan Health Systems, Barbara will ask the Port of Tacoma, and Jane and Tim will both check with the Bicycle Alliance of Washington.
- Jayme shared an official letter of invitation from the Washington State Trails Coalition regarding ForeverGreen's participation in planning the 2010 state conference in Tacoma. Ernie, Barbara, and Jayme will represent ForeverGreen on the planning committee.
- Kirk has continued meeting with Puyallup Tribe staff about the Puyallup-Tacoma trail route study. The Tribe's priority is to have their schools connected by trail. One of the schools is in close proximity to the 4C trail, which would be a win-win situation and allow the use of Portland Ave. instead of McKinley. The current plans being developed by Parametrix with input from the Tribe include the use of Portland Ave, as well as part of the First Creek corridor. Kirk noted it is very good progress to have the Tribe part of this process.

#### **New Business:**

- In anticipation of increased open space funding becoming available, Pierce County Parks and Pierce County area land trusts are preparing to draft a prioritized master plan for how to spend the open space funds. This will provide a public process to direct how open space funding should be spent. *Kirk moved for a resolution for the ForeverGreen Council to participate in the open space planning with Pierce County Parks and provide a representative to this process. Dave seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.* Scott agreed to help Kirk with the Greater Peninsula Land Conservancy and Trust for Public Lands. Dave will look into setting up a meeting with Pierce County Executive McCarthy to bring her up to speed on this issue.
- Tim and Jayme will work together to plan the spring Trails Advisory Committee meeting. They will set a date, draft an agenda, and evaluate TAC membership.

**Information Sharing:**

- Barbara – Sumner has laid off their Parks Director, but trail development is being handled by the Public Works Dept., which is planning for \$1 million in trail work for 2009.
- Ernie – A continuation for RCO funds for the Riverwalk-Foothills Trail connection has been applied for. The landowner is not willing to do anything until the annexation issue with Puyallup is resolved.
- Tim – Although things can change quickly, he recently saw that Pierce County is on the list to receive federal stimulus funds for Sprinker.
- Jane – February 24 is Transportation Advocacy Day in Olympia. The events will include a workshop on regional trails.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.**

**The next board meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.**