

**ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting
Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters
Minutes for May 11, 2016**

In Attendance: Chris Beale, Brianna Charbonnel, Gary Cooper, Mary Dodsworth, Buzz Grant, Jane Moore, Alan Carter Mortimer, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Lyle Quasim, Terry Reid, Barbara Skinner, Tony Tipton
Guests: Pat Baughman, Brian Johnston, Letticia Neal (all from Pierce County Public Works, Office of the County Engineer)

President Chris Beale called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Introductions In addition to Board introductions, Pat Baughman, Brian Johnston, and Letticia Neal from Pierce County Public Works introduced themselves.

Canyon Road Extension Presentation – Pierce County Public Works – Pat Baughman, Letticia Neal, & Brian Johnston

Letticia Neal introduced the project, which she said has been rebranded as the Canyon Road Regional Connection Project. Canyon Road is intended to be a freight corridor, connecting Frederickson to the Port of Tacoma. The corridor is split into six different segments. There is currently active design and/or right-of-way acquisition on four segments. Two segments are currently somewhat on hold. The extension project is broken into two segments: from Pioneer Way to 52nd Street at 62nd Avenue and from 52nd Street at 62nd Avenue to 70th Avenue in Fife, which includes the new Puyallup River bridge.

Letticia Neal spoke about the future bridge over the Puyallup River. The bridge itself will include a 14-foot separated trail on the east side of the structure. The north end of the bridge will allow clearance for a trail underneath that is planned by Fife.

Pat Baughman provided some history about the project. Pierce County originally started studying the extension in the early 1990s, leading to the County Council officially establishing the Canyon Corridor in 1999. Studies of the project continued until the Council directed staff to stop working on it in 2007. In 2011, the Council requested that staff start working on the project again.

Brian Johnston introduced himself as the environmental lead on the project. He is working on preparing the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) document for approval by the FHWA (Federal Highway Administration). Brian explained that a major feature of the project is to construct a new culvert under Canyon Road just south of Pioneer Way. This is a salmon bearing stream, but there is currently a fish blockage at Canyon Road. The new culvert will allow passage of salmon under Canyon Road.

Letticia shared that in order for the County to meet funding obligations, both segments of the extension need to be constructed by 2025. She shared that the extension is expected to carry between 20,000 and 25,000 vehicles per day after opening.

Letticia was asked why the County is not providing a striped bike lane on the new roadway. She said that historically the County constructed wide curb lanes without edge markings. Paved 4-foot shoulders have now become the norm, which is a compromise between wide curb lanes and striped bike lanes. Among the reasons that the County doesn't typically implement bike lanes are the extra cost of signage and increased maintenance costs.

Review and Approve Minutes The minutes were approved as written.

Financial Report Executive Director Jane Moore referred Board members to the financial details on the agenda.

Executive Director Report Jane reported that she, Chris, and Shawn attended the Bike Swap at UPS on April 30th, which was very well attended. About 40 people signed up to receive the ForeverGreen newsletter.

Jane conducted the first of two Advocacy Training sessions yesterday (May 10th) in Puyallup, prior to the City Council meeting. Five people attended the training. Jane shared the handouts with the Board.

Chris and Jane made a presentation about trails to the County Council Community Development Committee. The presentation was well received by Councilmembers.

Jane reported that she is working on getting the Pierce County Trails Conference sponsored by a UW-T professor. The sponsorship will reduce the room fee to about half the normal cost.

Jane reported that the application for 501c3 is progressing. This will be discussed more at next month's Board meeting.

Jane mentioned that King County has asked for a letter of support from ForeverGreen for the proposed nonmotorized bridge over the White River north of Buckley. Tony shared that King County has stepped up their role in this project. Jane will write the letter of support on behalf of the Board.

It was mentioned that Ernie Bay's memorial service is this Saturday (May 14th) at 10am at the WSU Conservation Center. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition is trying to get the future trail connection between the Riverwalk and Foothills Trails named after Ernie. Tony is concerned that there is uncertainty on the timing of construction of this section, so it would be better to dedicate something that is more near term. Tony shared that the East Puyallup trailhead of the Foothills will be expanded in the next few years. He suggested that a memorial to Ernie could be placed at the trailhead. A suggestion was made that an upcoming new section of the Riverwalk in Puyallup be named after him.

Reports & Discussion Chris mentioned that the newsletter is under development. Jane shared that she, Brianna, and Chris met with WTA (Washington Trails Association) staff to discuss WTAs Outreach Plan. The Board discussed outreach methods. Brianna suggested that we partner in other group's events, rather than creating events of our own.

Jane mentioned that June's meeting will be longer, probably from 12-3:30pm. The Board mission and organizational development will be discussed in June.

Jane shared Kirk Kirkland's report on the County Park Impact Fee meetings. A fee amount has not been agreed upon. The next working group meeting is May 23rd (which was subsequently postponed). Tony shared that many issues have been resolved, but not the fee amount. He thinks that there will likely be a County Council meeting on the topic in late June. Tony and Gary both encouraged Board members to testify in favor of an increased fee at County Council meetings. Buzz mentioned that the Council members are often influenced by discussions that occur outside of the regular meetings. He recommended that Board members meet with Councilmembers in person.

News, Updates, and Announcements

The Board voted to elect Mary Dodsworth and Alan Carter Mortimer as new Board members.

Tony mentioned that the groundbreaking ceremony for the new section of the Foothills Trail will be held on June 7th at noon at the site, south of Buckley.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm.