

**ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting  
Puyallup City Hall  
Minutes for November 18, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Barbara Skinner, Bob Myrick, Brianna Charbonnel, Bryan Bowden, Buzz Grant, Chris Beale, David Boe, Ernie Bay, Gary Cooper, George Walk, Jane Moore, Kurt Reuter, Shawn Phelps, Terry Reid; Guests – Charla Neuman, Don Partington

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

**Review and Approve Minutes**

Terry moved approval of the minutes and George seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Financial Update**

Executive Director Jane Moore shared the current budget numbers. Our total assets are \$66,033 in the two accounts, with \$40,375 reserved for PWI activities. The \$25,658 remaining is more that we have had in our reserves for some time.

**Executive Director Report**

Jane mentioned that she has been busy with meetings and writing two letters to County Council in support of the Parks Impact Fee proposal and retaining Conservation Futures funding at current levels. She testified at two County Council hearings.

Jane also attended Pierce County Parks meetings on trail prioritization. Staff has prioritized trail proposals in high, medium, and low categories based on criteria that the public rated. Comments on the priorities are being accepted during the next two weeks.

Finally, Jane attended a meeting on the Mt. Rainier National Park Stewardship Plan. There is an online input process for this plan.

**Parks Impact Fee/Conservation Futures Report**

The County Council considered a proposal in the Parks Department budget that would have significantly increased the impact fee paid for residential development.

The proposal did not pass, but the Council took action to create a committee to study the issue in early 2016 and return a proposal to the Council. The committee is expected to meet every 2-3 weeks for a 4-month period.

ForeverGreen will have a representative on the committee. There was discussion on who should be the representative. Gary Cooper volunteered, but thought that Parks would need to be consulted as to whether it would be acceptable to have a public agency representative. Buzz offered to be an alternate and suggested that Kirk Kirkland be the representative. Kirk was contacted by phone and agreed to be the representative.

David made a motion and Ernie seconded a proposal to have Kirk as the representative, Jane as alternate, and Gary as 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Meeting Planning**

It was decided that the Board would hold a potluck on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Dacca Barn in Fife in lieu of a meeting. The annual retreat will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Snake Lake Nature Center from 12-4pm. Retreat agenda items will include reviewing/revising long and short term goals, Board development and recruitment, and participation in public events.

Chris suggested that we talk about our level of involvement in trail stewardship programs. Shawn proposed we discuss our longer term COI goals, so we can be prepared for future COI budget cycles. Jane suggested that we talk about a Speaker's Bureau.

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

- Participate in Puyallup Watershed Initiative – Active Transportation Community of Interest
  - Puyallup Watershed Initiative Conference
    - There was general consensus from attendees that there was lots of energy and it was good to meet members of other COIs. Bryan had hoped for more updates on the work of other COIs.
  - Report on Year 1 projects
    - White paper – countywide trail system – Jane is working on this and will have a draft ready soon. This will focus on the steps

involved in trail building, highlighting the complexities and making a case for more funding.

- Inventory & prioritize ROW – Shawn and Bryan mentioned that Board members had worked extensively on a spreadsheet of trail proposals that has been given to Pierce County Parks for their prioritization process.
- Inventory trail plans; identify priorities – Shawn relayed that the public process to identify trail priorities is being delayed until Spring to allow for staff and citizens to participate fully participated in the impact fee discussion.
- Design trail stewardship program – Chris said he will clean up the program in the next few weeks.
- Planned Year 2 activities – new project requests
  - Jane mentioned that ForeverGreen is applying for Year 2 COI funding to take the stewardship program out to agencies. This is the only new task that ForeverGreen is applying for in Year 2. Continuing COI tasks with ForeverGreen involvement are engagement of local officials, local government “101” training to teach citizens how to comment at Council meetings, and scholarships to pay for registrations for community members to attend the Pierce County Trails Conference. We will also receive \$2500 for the conference from the COI’s Plan4Health grant.

## **News, Updates, and Announcements**

Bob mentioned that an engineer has recently left employment at Pierce County Parks.

Buzz announced that the Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition (FRTTC) is talking about taking over ownership from Pierce County of the soft surface trail from the paved portion of the Foothills to Mt. Rainer. Other trails are also being discussed for this including in the Ashford-Elbe area. Pierce County is considering this proposal and whether to turn the trails over with covenants or granting easements. FRTCC cannot currently obtain permits for work on the trails, since they are in Pierce County ownership.

David mentioned that the City of Tacoma has received a 1-year extension from the Puget Sound Regional Council for the grant the City received for the Puyallup

River bridges.

David said that he will be resigning from the Board at the end of the year. Bob suggested that we ask the Tacoma City Council to appoint another representative.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:28 pm.