

ForeverGreen Board Meeting
April 9, 2008
Tacoma Metro Parks, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Attendance: Bryan Bowden, Skip Ferrucci, Jake Fey, Jayme Gordon, Kirk Kirkland, Terry Lee, Jane Moore, John Olson, and Barbara Skinner.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon. Vice President Jane Moore opened the meeting at 12:08 p.m. in lieu of President Ernie Bay.

Approval of Minutes:

- Jane noted some corrections to the “Complete the Streets” report in the information sharing section of the March minutes, the acronym for the Healthy Communities of Pierce County organization (HC-PC), and a few typographical corrections.
- *Kirk motioned to approve the March board meeting minutes with corrections. Terry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

Finances:

- Jayme presented the final budget report for 2007 and a draft 2008 budget. All of the incomes and expenses for 2007 were recorded correctly and the ending balance matched the end-of-the-year account statement from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.
- At the end of 2007, there was \$9,000 in grant money carried over, and \$9,836.48 in cash reserves carried into 2008.
- The current budget format becomes problematic when trying to show end-of-year transactions. Barbara advised a switch from a cash flow model to an accrual method for tracking our budget. Some help from a CPA or other experienced person would be most helpful in making this transition.
- Discussion followed about the cost of hiring a lobbyist to assist with next year’s push for the trails sales tax. Low-end estimates are in the \$15-\$20k range.
- Kirk presented a bill for hosting and maintaining the website. *Barbara motioned to pay \$95.40 for this service. Terry seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*
- Printing costs for the spring newsletter were also discussed. The thought is to have about 125 copies made that can be handed out at events, the TAC meeting, etc. Approximately half would be reserved to send to city officials and park board members.

Old Business:

- *Membership* – A discussion of possible new board members took place. Many names were suggested in context of next year’s push for the trails sales tax. Representation from PALS, TPCHD, and Pierce Transit (e.g. Lind Simonsen) was emphasized. Bill Phillips, a trails enthusiast from Lakewood with ties to the local banking community, was also suggested.
- *Trails Assistance updates* – The \$9k in grant money from REI and the GTCF is being used to help with trail route finding for the Tacoma-Fife-Puyallup connection. Kirk and Bryan are drafting a scope of work so that a consultant can be hired. Word that the Puyallup Tribe is planning a recreation/youth center on the

north side of the river, south of the Clarks Creek bridge indicates that now would be a good time to have a conversation with them about including a trail in the plans for the center. Fife representatives and John Ladenburg have been identified as the best people to approach the Tribe about this. For the Auburn-Pacific-Sumner trails assistance, Jayme is working to help update and coordinate a trail map showing the Interurban-White River Trail corridor. This map will show both existing and proposed sections of trail so that Pacific and Sumner can use it in their upcoming grant proposals with RCO. The state of Lakewood's trail plan was also discussed, particularly the difficulty the city has with land acquisition. Despite this, there is a lot of enthusiasm for trails in the city. The trail corridor from the Water Ditch Trail, through the Flett Creek wetlands, to Bridgeport has been identified as a priority.

- *New Brochure* – Kirk presented several quotes for printing the new, updated brochure. *Kirk motioned for the board to approve the printing of 3,000 8-1/2x11” 3-fold brochures, in color for \$403. Barbara seconded the motioned, which was approved unanimously.*
- *Trails Advisory Committee* – Beth Glynn, who had been identified as a nominee for the TAC chair, is leaving TPCHD. Tim Payne, formerly of Pierce Transit now working for a private consulting firm, will be approached next. Jayme will be finalizing the agenda in the next few weeks and sending it out via email prior to the April 30th meeting at the Snake Lake Nature Center in Tacoma.

New Business:

- *National Trails Day* – Kirk and Bryan will set up a meeting to talk with the TNT by the end of the month about story ideas. Four story ideas have already been outlined: health benefits of trails (Jane); real estate advantages of trails (John); transportation related issues (Ernie); and recreation opportunities (Bryan). The hope is for the stories to come out in a series over the four weeks leading up to National Trails Day. Also, Terry has been asked to write one or more op-ed pieces for the Peninsula Gateway, and he will feature trails in his article(s). Barbara brought up the question of pitching the trail story ideas to the smaller, local papers around Pierce County. This may be an option, but the primary objective is to get it into the TNT, which has a wider readership.

News, Updates, and Announcements:

- *Kirk* – He and Barbara met with the Tacoma City Council's Public Works and Environment Committee at the end of March. The committee was very supportive of the presentation, especially councilwoman Lauren Walker.
- *John* – Announced that the annual Cascade Land Conservancy's awards breakfast is May 1 at the Convention Center in Seattle. CLC is also in the midst of a large capital campaign to raise \$20 million. A discussion about the possibility of putting P/TDR bonding on the ballot followed. Even though P/TDR was passed by the Pierce County Council, it was not funded. But the question of whether now is the right time to put it on the ballot is still up in the air.
- *Terry* – Moving forward on acquisition of the Tacoma Narrows Airport, which is becoming more challenging as the economy continues to soften. WADOT has demobilized at the Narrows Gate property and Terry continues to negotiate the status of that property for a trailhead. Construction bids for Phase 2 of the Cushman Trail

should be out by the end of May. He also stated that the Pierce County Parks and Recreation budget is currently stretched very, very tight, and pointed to the escalating costs to renovate Sprinker as one of the causes.

- *Barbara* – Reiterated the recent passage of the “Complete the Streets” resolution.
- *Jane* – The Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Healthy Communities task force is interested in collaborating with ForeverGreen to promote trails. Would Terry and Kirk be able to meet with them the evening of May 19? Healthy Communities will also be presenting a resolution to the Gig Harbor city council in April to support access to public activity.
- *Skip* – Among many other things, construction bids for part of the South Prairie-Buckley section of the Foothills Trail are ready to go out by the end of the month; bids for Phase 2 of the Cushman Trail going out in May (see Terry’s comments above). He is also in the process of negotiating the Scope of Work for the countywide trail plan with the consultants.
- *Bryan* – Shared newly printed brochures of the Historic Walking Tour map/guide for the five gateway communities of east Pierce County. The guides for Buckley, Enumclaw, South Prairie, Wilkeson, and Orting are now ready for distribution to the public.

Closing Comments:

- There were no official closing comments.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.