

ForeverGreen Board Retreat
January 9, 2008
Tacoma Public Library, Wheelock Branch
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Attended: Bryan Bowden, Jayme Gordon, Kirk Kirkland, Kathy Kravit-Smith, Jane Moore, John Olson, Barbara Skinner, and Dave Uberuaga.

Minutes Taken by: Jayme Gordon

Open and Introduction: 12:20 p.m.

Welcome:

- In lieu of Ernie being gone on vacation out of state, Jane chaired the meeting.

Short and Long Term Goals:

- Last year's short term goals were reviewed and evaluated.
 1. "Pass renewal and increase of countywide Conservation Assessment Fee and hire Trails Assistance Office staff." *In progress.*
 2. "Secure funding for the ForeverGreen budget." *In progress.*
 3. "Write job descriptions for Trails Assistance Office staff positions." *In progress.* The board agreed to keep this goal on an "as needed basis."
 4. "Acquire office space for the TAO staff." *Not accomplished.* The board didn't think this was needed as a goal for 2008, but if needed, Kathy said that the Lakewood Community Center has some office space available.
 5. "Strengthen partnerships with cities and community groups to build trails. Coordinate education efforts with the Pierce Conservation District to increase city participation in conservation fees." *In progress.*
 6. "Convene a minimum of two Trails Advisory Committee meetings to address trail issues and establish priorities for trails." *Accomplished.*
 7. "Organize a Pierce County Trails Conference in fall 2007." *Accomplished.*
 8. "Develop a progress report to community trail advocates and supporters. Develop a contact list of interested parties." *In progress.*
 9. "Plan and organize a winter board retreat for the purpose of completing a strategic plan." *Accomplished.*
 10. "Evaluate budget needs for the transition to a full Trails Assistance Office staff and set budget goals for 2007." *In progress.*
 11. "Work with Pierce County and other jurisdictions to develop uniform trail standards." *In progress.*
 12. "Help publicize National Trails Day in Pierce County." *Accomplished.*
 13. "Review 6-year transportation plans of local municipalities to ensure trails are included." *Not accomplished.*
- Much discussion centered around the need to better organize the Short Term Goals for 2008 and combine them by category.
- The new list of 2008 short term goals is attached. It will be presented at the February board meeting for formal adoption.
- No changes were made to the long term goals. They are attached for review.

Membership:

- The board discussed the current membership of the ForeverGreen board and what changes, if any, should be made.
- Barbara will follow up with Connie Ladenburg and confirm her willingness to serve on the ForeverGreen board now that Tom Stenger is no longer on the Tacoma City Council. Kirk and Jayme will work together on a letter to Tom thanking him for his service.
- Kirk will touch base with Van Collins about his interest in continuing on the board, as well as update Vince Hardy's contact information.
- In addition to Tom Stenger, Bob Carlson will be approached about his place on the board.
- Suggestions for new board members included: Tom Smallwood (mayor of Eatonville), Pete Lewis (mayor of Auburn), Don ? (regional manager at WA State Parks in Auburn), Pat Johnson (mayor of Buckley), Mary Dodsworth (Lakewood Parks), Kurt Reuter (Fife Parks), and Ryan Mello (Cascade Land Conservancy/ Tacoma Parks board).
- The board also discussed the merits of having a two-tiered board made up of working board members and a council of advisors.

Funding:

- It was proposed that we focus our fundraising efforts on the solicitation of funds (a.k.a. dues) from cities, with a letter to go out earlier in the budget process this year.
- The board discussed which cities should be emphasized in the funding push: Bonney Lake, Edgewood, Puyallup, DuPont, Gig Harbor, Lakewood, Fife, Orting, Milton, Eatonville, the Peninsula-Metropolitan Park District, and the Key Peninsula Park District.
- There is \$9,000 carried over to 2008 from the REI and GTCF grants. It was proposed that we do not go after any additional grants until we have successfully spent these.
- As it is, a consultant may need to be hired to spend the grant monies. Discussion followed. Tom Eckston and Ed Davis were a couple of names thrown out as possibilities for this position.
- Kirk made a motion for ForeverGreen to contract with a planner to achieve the goals of the REI and GTCF grants; the Executive Committee will handle the hiring process. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Jayme passed around current copies of the 2007 budget. She will work on preparing the 2008 budget.

Sales Tax Legislation:

- Kirk passed out summary notes of the proposed sales tax legislation, as well as a copy of the actual legislation text.
- If approved, this legislation will allow a measure to go forth for public vote that will raise the sales tax one-tenth of one percent, from the current 0.088 cents per dollar to 0.089 cents per dollar. If it passes the public vote, the sales tax increase will provide a consistent revenue source for trails and open space.
- It is anticipated that the campaign for the public vote will cost \$60-\$80k.

- Kirk is working to meet with legislators in Olympia. Sen. Kastama has said he will get a hearing for this legislation in 2008. We could then hope for passage by the state legislation in 2009, and to see it on the Pierce County ballot in 2010.
- Letters from ForeverGreen board members to the state legislators would be helpful, and Kirk can provide a template letter.
- Kirk is also trying to put together a panel to present at the hearing, and will likely be contacting many board members to help with this.

Trails Advisory Committee:

- Initial discussion focused on what the original ideas and intentions were for the TAC. There was the expectation that the TAC would become more advisory and provide feedback to the ForeverGreen board. Right now, there is not input or feedback from the TAC; they seem to come to the meetings in order to learn, in the absence of ForeverGreen providing them with something to advise on.
- Question: Has ForeverGreen given the TAC the context or framework to be an advisory body?
- There needs to be more dialogue between TAC members. Make sure there is an opportunity for information sharing, either in round table format or by breaking up into smaller groups.
- Remind the TAC what their roles, responsibilities, and expectations are.
- The board discussed potential candidates for the TAC chair, since Markus' term is over in April. Board members will talk with Kimberly Freeman (PALS), Tim Payne (Pierce Transit), Mike Galizio (PC Public Works), and Nancy Neyenhouse (Tahoma Mountaineers) about being nominated for the TAC elections in April.
- The responsibilities of the TAC chair will have to be communicated very clearly: they will need to chair the TAC meetings; they may provide input into the agenda; and they are encouraged to attend the monthly ForeverGreen board meetings.
- Jayme will send out an email in March as a heads-up for the April TAC meeting. This message will also include information about the chair candidates, solicit agenda items, and reiterate the TAC purpose.
- Dates for the 2008 TAC meetings were tentatively set for April 30 and October 29. The 4th Annual Trails Conference is tentatively set for December 4, 2008.

Publicity:

- A general plan for publicizing ForeverGreen and the importance of trails was discussed.
- Target dates for publication of the ForeverGreen newsletter are March/April and October/November.
- We will send the newsletter to key officials via snail mail.
- Kirk is working on an op-ed piece for the News Tribune that is scheduled to be published in January or February to coincide with public announcements of the new mile of trail to be opening at Chambers Bay. The new trails map will be part of the op-ed article.
- Question: How can we publicize National Trails Day more? The proposed solution is a series of articles in the News Tribune published in the weeks or days leading up to National Trails Day. The article topics could include trail-related

activities such as commuting, health and wellness, economics, recreation, and ground breaking of the Cushman Trail extension

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 13, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.