

Forever Green Council Board Monthly Meeting
February 9, 2012
Metropolitan Parks District Building

Attended by: David Seago, Jane Moore, Kirk Kirkland, Chris Beale, Brian Bowden, Barbara Skinner, Ernie Bay, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Rick Talbert, Tony Tipton, Kendall Reid

Minutes taken by Kendall Reid

Meeting called to order at 12:05 by President David Seago.

The minutes of the January 12 Board Retreat were approved, with two abstentions.

Membership: Bob Myrick has indicated his interest in being a board member. Kendall Reid has not yet been successful in contacting Rick Semple to determine his interest in being a board member. Later in the meeting Bob Myrick was elected to the board unanimously.

Finance: Jane presented the updated financial report.

Budget: Kirk will craft a fundraising letter for a winter/spring fundraising drive, in response to a \$3000 grant from an anonymous donor to match contributions. Tony Tipton suggested that the same fundraising text be made available for e-mail distribution to a wider group.

Government Relations: Jane went to Transportation Advocacy Day. Three bills were highlighted.

1. Speed limits below 25 mph in residential areas – SHB1217
2. Planning for safer streets – HB1700
3. Addition of “Health” as a transportation policy goal – HB2370

Terry Lee discussed the grants administered every other year by the Recreation Conservation Office. The RCO gathers the grants and then makes recommendations to the legislature which appropriates money for successful grants. During the last grant cycle Pen Met Parks received \$2 million of successful grants. Terry suggests that Forever Green consider applying for a grant.

The Rails to Trails Conservancy suggests that we contact Congress regarding a proposed bill that cuts funding for trails, walking and biking within the surface transportation bill. David will send a letter on Forever Green’s behalf.

Review of Short Term Goals

Programs and Meetings

- Hold a Winter Board Retreat. Completed. Will repeat in January 2013.
- Participate in the City of Tacoma’s Mobility Plan. David Seago is currently serving on the City of Tacoma’s Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board.

- Participate in Pierce County Parks Leadership Task Force. Rick Talbert, Terry Lee, Tony Tipton, David Seago and Kirk Kirkland are on the task force.
- Continue work to find trail/bike path connections between Puyallup and Tacoma. One important question may be which bike lanes will provide the best access to trail areas? Forever Green would support changes in Tacoma and Puyallup Public Works budget. Puyallup needs assistance in making an active transportation plan before 2015.
- Work to address missing links. Tony Tipton reports that Puget Sound Energy will acquire an easement near the Puyallup River Walk and the Foothills Trail. There is some hope that a trail could be related to that project.
- Hold a Pierce County Trails Conference including a public component. Amend: “to consider including a public component.” Form a conference planning committee.
- Support Bike to Work events in Pierce County. We expect updates soon on Tacoma’s support for Bike to Work activities.

Budget

Build support for Pierce County trail funding. Do outreach to community through speaking engagements.

Communications

Help update maps. Work with all interested parties.

Consider name change. Develop a tag line to use with current name on all communications. “Connecting people, trails and communities in Pierce County.”

Kirk, Barbara and Kendall (chair) will review tag line and make recommendations.

Short Term Goals for 2012 were approved for adoption as amended.

New Business: Tony, David, Ernie, Barbara and Terry will serve on the Conference Planning Committee. Even though Brianna Charbonnel was not present, she was suggested as a potential committee chair.

Chambers Creek is a possibility for an afternoon event with social hour following. The social hour would be a good opportunity for sponsorship.

News:

1. King County and Pierce County are working on a White River crossing to King County Foothills Trail. There is a feasibility study to reuse the Fred Meyer Puyallup Bridge to span the river.
2. A grant from ROA was used to complete the 3500 foot Buckley to Highway 165 right of way.
3. Foothills Trail Coalition will have its Rainier to Ruston event the first Saturday in June, June 2.

Adjournment: David Seago adjourned the meeting at 1:35.