

ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters Minutes for July 13, 2016

In Attendance: Chris Beale (President), Brianna Charbonnel, Jane Moore (Executive Director), Alan Carter Mortimer, Shawn Phelps (Secretary), Terry Reid, Kurt Reuter, George Walk (Vice President)
Guest: Don Partington

President Chris Beale called the meeting to order at 12:13 pm.

Introductions

Review and Approve Minutes

George moved approval of the minutes, Shawn seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Executive Director Jane Moore directed Board members to the financial summary shown on the agenda.

Executive Director Report

Jane updated group on a number of her activities. She wrote three comment letters on behalf of the Board in the past month. The first is written to Pierce County Planning for the Knutson development, encouraging the implementation of a trail connection through the development. The second is to Pierce County Public Works for the Canyon Corridor, supporting the trail that will be on the bridge over the Puyallup and voicing concern about the adequacy of a four foot paved shoulder on the remainder of the corridor. The third letter is supporting the naming of the new connector through the Knutson development after Ernie Bay.

Jane has contacted a professional development consultant to see if they can meet with the Executive Board in August. Discussing 501c3 status will be among the topics explored with the consultant.

Jane asked for permission to purchase a new "Square" for processing credit card payments. The new one will read the chips on credit cards for increased security and costs \$50. Shawn moved approval of the purchase and Terry seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jane is looking into apparel purchases. Alan gave her a suggestion for a company that has very reasonable t-shirt prices.

Jane updated the website with new minutes and other materials. Chris estimates that he updates the Facebook page 5-8 times a week with a new photo or other post. He indicated that the "likes/follows" of the page has leveled off at about 219.

Reports & Discussion

Park Impact Fee Working Group Report

The Board reviewed Kirk Kirkland's report that summarizes the findings of the impact fee working group and proposed next steps. The MBA wouldn't agree on a significant increase to the fee and in the end offered to double the fee to \$770 per home. This proposal was not accepted by the working group, since there was no methodology behind it.

Kirk proposes a postcard campaign, where the public is urged to put their name on a postcard that supports a fee increase and is delivered to the County Council Chair. The Board was favorable to the postcard campaign and postings on Facebook and the Board website. Jane will find out when the Council is next scheduled to consider impact fees.

Trails Conference Planning

The conference will be held on September 29th. Jane announced that Ron Sims has been confirmed as the keynote speaker, thanks to Lyle Quasim's invitation. A UW-T professor has agreed to sponsor the event, so it will be held at UW-T at a reduced rental rate. Jane will work with the conference subcommittee to finalize details.

There are \$500 in scholarship funds from the AT COI that ForeverGreen needs to spend. There was discussion about

who to award these to. It was decided to be inclusive and award them on a first come, first served basis. There will be outreach to local universities, including UW-T, UPS, and PLU. There will also be an effort to invite local high school students, especially those involved in the Major Taylor program. At Brianna's suggestion, the registration form will note that scholarships are available with Jane's contact information on the form.

PWI Active Transportation Work

Chris showed the Board the Year 3 budget prioritization list that was provided to AT COI members the day before. He went through each of our proposals, noting that many did not rank very highly in the prioritization, especially the community recognition program. Chris feels that our ask of \$7500 for the program could be reduced to \$5000.

Shawn talked about the trail count proposal, which ranked fairly highly. We are asking for \$1000 in funding for the counts. We would include approximately 20-25 trail locations and solicit for volunteers to count in mid-May. The funding would cover paid staff time for recruitment, data entry, and reporting. Any remaining funds would be used to help with recruitment for the September 2017 WSDOT/Cascade count effort.

Chris noted that the Speak Up – Local Government Training at \$2000 ranked the highest of our requests. The Walk Pierce County program ranked 19th, despite the fact that the Walk Tacoma program was ranked much higher at 10th. The Trail Scholarships also appear to be funded.

Brianna suggested that we don't low ball costs on projects as we negotiate at the COI on July 14th. She pointed out that the Russell Family Foundation's funds are not intended to fund the status quo, so new projects should be important to each COI. The goal is not to fund everything, but to create collaboration that will attract other funders.

Chris mentioned that AT COI staff asked for Year 4 proposals to have an idea what will be coming next year. These were not prioritized. ForeverGreen's Year 4 proposals include a continuation of the six Year 3 proposals and three new ones. The new proposals are a Try a Bus to a Trail event, Watershed Area Walking Guides, and an Online Trail Finder Map and Trail Information Pages.

News, Updates, and Announcements

As is traditional, there will be no Board meeting in August. The next meeting will be moved a week early due to conflicts and will be held September 7th at the Tacoma Nature Center.

Terry talked about a new subdivision under construction east of Bonney Lake on the north side of the White River Flume. There is an access road along the Flume that is often used by bicyclists and pedestrians, despite being gated. A trail along the Flume is included in the Pierce County Regional Trail Plan. Part of the access road has now been blocked due to a retaining pond being built in the subdivision. Terry found out that the Cascade Water Alliance made a land swap with the developer for construction of the retention pond. Terry thinks there may still be a chance to put a trail between the pond and the Flume, but this is unclear. Shawn offered to talk to Pierce County Planning and/or Parks about the basis for allowing the pond and the prospects of still having a trail now that the pond is in place.

Kurt shared that Fridays in Fife occurs every Friday in the summer and includes a farmers market from 3-7pm with music and movies following some of the markets.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:29 pm.