

**ForeverGreen Board Meeting**  
**May 10, 2006**  
**Tacoma Metro Parks Headquarters**

**Attended:** Ernie Bay (Foothills Trails Coalition), Bryan Bowden (Mt. Rainier National Park), Jayme Gordon (Pierce Conservation District), Grant Griffin (PC Parks and Recreation), Kirk Kirkland (Tahoma Audubon), Jane Moore, M.D. (WCPPA), John Olson (Cascade Land Conservancy), Barbara Skinner (Retired, Mayor of Sumner), Dave Uberuaga (Mt. Rainier National Park), Jack Wilson (Tacoma Metro Parks).

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon

**Open and Introduction:** 12:03 p.m. The meeting began with round table introductions and sharing of information.

- Ernie: Waiting to hear from Puyallup if the section of the Riverwalk Trail east of Hwy. 512 is a “go.”
- Jack: Described the PC Health & Physical Activity Coalition’s “Let’s Walk” breakfast and ForeverGreen presentation given by Jayme.
- Barbara: Sumner Public Works wrote up a synopsis of their current trail plans and construction status after the King-Pierce Valley cities meeting.
- Dave: Shared some ideas in the works for Mt. Rainier’s part of National Trail Day, including working with the Tacoma REI store, being a part of the Rainier to Ruston race, and the possibility of Rep. Dave Reichert giving a speech.
- Jane: Newest ForeverGreen board member, she is a doctor as well as the president and executive director of the Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity. As one of the planners of the “Let’s Walk” event, she handed out an invitation for the “Active Living Leadership in Washington” workshop to be held at Norpoint on June 8. She also mentioned that she is working with a group to put out a local walking map.
- Grant: Paving is slated to begin on the Rails-to-Trails section through Wilkeson in the second half of May. Scott Hall is working on the County’s participation in National Trail Day activities.
- John: Handed out an invitation to Helen Engel’s annual picnic on June 29, and information on the No-933 campaign. He passed around copies of a project solicitation form from the Cascade Land Conservancy, and shared that preliminary results from the “Green Tacoma” project show that 50% of the green space in Tacoma is in private ownership, i.e. half of the current green space in the city will likely be developed.
- Kirk: Has agreed to share a grant writer with PC Parks. ForeverGreen needs to identify how we will pay for the part of the time they will be working with us.

**Finances:**

- A statement from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation for the first quarter of 2006 shows a balance of \$13,324.32 in our account. This balance does not

reflect the \$103.48 spent on the TAC meeting in April, or the \$5,000 contribution requested from PC Parks.

- Jayme presented an invoice from the Pierce Conservation District for her time spent working on ForeverGreen during 2005. Ernie made a motion to approve payment, and was seconded by Barbara. A discussion followed and questions were raised about appropriate documentation for auditing purposes (Jayme did provide an hourly breakdown of time charged by month and date), and where do we stand on having a budget set aside to cover salary expenses. The motion was approved unanimously to pay the amount of \$7,512.25, with the understanding that future salary invoices will be submitted on a quarterly basis, and will show hourly breakdowns as well as description of activities associated with those hours. Kirk will submit this invoice to the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation.

### **Trails Advisory Committee:**

- A review was given of the first TAC meeting held on April 19. There were 16 TAC members in attendance, and seven ForeverGreen board members. It was a very good first meeting, with engaged participants and interesting discussions on a variety of points (including, for example, whether the Trails Assistance Office should operate with a staff of hired consultants, and whether the first staff to bring on should be a grant writer or a right-of-way person).
- A thank you letter, list of TAC members, and list of ForeverGreen board members was sent shortly after the meeting. Minutes from the meeting will be sent later.
- The next TAC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 21 at the Snake Lake Nature Center.
- Jayme passed along a website that was mentioned by TAC member Bob Myrick for an organization based in St. Louis with a program similar to what ForeverGreen is proposing: [www.trailnet.org](http://www.trailnet.org).

### **King-Pierce Co. Valley Cities Trail Meeting:**

- Staff from Tukwila to Puyallup was at the meeting, as well as members of the Sumner Parks Board, for a total of 23 in attendance.
- Lots of good information was shared, and people appreciated the opportunity to learn what their neighbors were up to.
- Several things came out of the meeting, including: a request for ForeverGreen to schedule a meeting with Auburn, Sumner, Pacific, and Algona to discuss how to spend a \$150,000 grant for trail planning, and Jayme wrote a summary of the meeting for the Foothills Rails-to-Trails newsletter.
- The group indicated they would like to meet regularly, twice a year.

### **Rainier-to-Ruston Race and National Trails Day:**

- The board agreed to staff a ForeverGreen booth at the finish area of the race, and have a representative to speak during the award ceremonies.

- It was decided that Kirk would speak about ForeverGreen, Bryan will design the display, and Jayme and Bryan will set up the booth. Other available board members were encouraged to also help at the booth.
- There was also discussion about the importance of getting media coverage to this event and putting the spotlight on the National Trails aspect of the race, especially with the growth of the event from last year to this year. It was suggested that some advertising could be done on the [www.discoverparks.org](http://www.discoverparks.org) website. Kirk and Bryan agreed to help focus press coverage on the National Trails Day aspect.

### **Committee Reports:**

- A discussion to revisit the role and function of ForeverGreen's committee structure was tabled due to a shortage of time.

### **Outreach/Newsletter:**

- At the TAC meeting, Bryan was approached by Foothills Coalition member Dixie Gatchell, who offered to help distribute information via email.
- There was general consent on the board for a regularly distributed ForeverGreen e-newsletter. It would include updates on local trail news, ForeverGreen activities, etc., and would utilize a "phone tree" type of list for distribution.
- A concern was raised about duplicating the trail newsletter already published by the Foothills Coalition. ForeverGreen's newsletter should be complimentary to, not a duplication of, what the Foothills Coalition does. Therefore, it was suggested that ForeverGreen's newsletter include major headlines of news and events with links for more information, and the content would be focused on ForeverGreen news. The newsletter would also have a broad distribution list (e.g. politicians).
- Jayme offered to talk with the graphic designer who does the Pierce Conservation District newsletter and website about formatting a design for the e-newsletter.
- Bryan, Kirk, and Jayme will meet with Dixie to talk in more detail about the e-newsletter for ForeverGreen.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- The idea of holding a social function during the summer, in lieu of a formal board meeting, was floated. The board decided against planning this event.
- The board also discussed the idea of adding a trails conference component to ForeverGreen's annual meeting. Barbara will schedule a time for the events committee to work on this idea, and bring a proposal to the June board meeting. Grant suggested that one possible place to hold this meeting would be at the former Amphitheater on South Hill, which has recently been acquired by PC Parks.

### **ForeverGreen Presentations:**

- Jayme has arranged to meet with the YMCA's Wellness Cabinet on June 15.

- Barbara agreed to schedule a ForeverGreen presentation to the city of Pacific, Kirk will schedule Tacoma, Gig Harbor, and University Place, and Bryan will contact the town of Eatonville.

**Closing Comments:**

- John voiced the need for the trail connection between Puyallup and Tacoma to be a priority, and asked about scheduling a meeting with these cities, as well as Fife and Pierce County. WADOT should also be brought into these discussions, since some parts of the trail could be done in conjunction with the SR-167 extension.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.**

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