



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Board Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2018

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

Attendees

Terry Reid, President; Bryan Bowden; Mary Dodsworth; Buzz Grant; Jane Moore, Executive Director; Bob Myrick; Shawn Phelps

Excused: Andrew Austin, Richard Bankhead, Alan Carter Mortimer, George Walk

Guests: John Selby, Anne-marie Marshall-Dody

Terry Reid called the meeting to order at 12:34 pm when quorum was reached.

Business

September minutes approved with one correction; financial report reviewed.

Executive Director Report – conference planning, usual activities; meeting with Branch Manager Opus Bank – opportunity for grants from Opus Foundation.

Terry & Jane meeting this afternoon with Keep America Beautiful – they provide grant funding for park/trail clean-up/stewardship. They are looking for an affiliate in Pierce County; probably more than we could manage but might be able to partner with Pierce County Parks.

Officers: generally elected November or December and take office in January. Vice President currently vacant. Need to continue to strategically expand our board next year – think of possibilities.

Consider skipping December meeting; Jane will be gone. May just have small group of people meet to plan January annual planning meeting.

Fundraising Update

Response from jurisdictions for sponsorships and/or organizational memberships is good. Next step will be reaching out to businesses seeking sponsorships for 2019. Board pledges are underway.

For 2019, consider making rack cards more generic so can be used indefinitely; drive to web site for additional information.

Trails Conference Planning

Discussed prior to official meeting, before quorum was present. Registrations slow about 50 currently; speakers confirmed except 1; decreased number for caterer to 75 - \$500 savings; sponsors/organizational members have pledged \$7350; silent auction received 2 items so far, Terry's wife will manage at event; we will have t-shirts to give for donations; Mary getting info for Breaking News segment.

Trail Updates & News

Buzz: last night City of Puyallup passed approval of purchase of 4 properties for Riverwalk Trail; will use to fill missing link of Riverwalk Trail between SR 512 & railroad bridge.

Tacoma Puyallup connection, Copenhagen group – follow-up workshop was held last week; meeting tomorrow with WSDOT Gateway Project manager; will ask that bicycle pedestrian route be added to scope of work for SR 167. Bryan suggested need to involve additional stakeholders in process so will have broader support.

Terry will invite Gary Leaf to November meeting to provide update on Fennel Creek Trail.

Trail Presentation

Anne-marie Marshall-Dody, Pierce County Surface Water Management

Puyallup River Flood Control Update – trails planning

Old plans done by Army Corps of Engineers in the 1960's called for trails along levees as part of flood control projects.

River Surface Water Flood Management Plan Update – lower Puyallup River segment is area of interest. Since 2013, PC SWM has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers on study of the entire area to determine projects needed to protect Puyallup Valley from flood damage. This project is now being shelved, so is going nowhere. PC SWM had fought to get projects included that did not match the Army Corps of Engineers' financial requirements. The Army Corps of Engineers only considers problems within 50 years; FEMA considers problems whenever they might occur. Another pool of money exists for projects that rated higher in plan, near Orting & along the White River.

Flood Control Zone board still exists and is committed to finding funding for projects especially those that would have an effect on the port. Levees are in great shape for their age. Need to add boat ramps but try not to cut into 110-year-old levee.

County wants to provide access as much as possible where they can. They have reviewed areas where they could allow access through gates; many areas are actually easements on private property with easement for repair only; property is not owned by county. There are signs on gates that describe how far people are allowed to go in each direction. County has tried to identify tie-ins to Foothills Trail which is usually a better choice than the levee.

The first 3 miles are owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, not the County. It is in pretty good shape and doesn't need much work.

County needs to put a flood wall up along River Road to contain peak levels; steel for walls expensive; need to be 40-50 feet tall. Along Levee Road it will be best to set levee back as far as possible. They plan to build a pyramid shaped levee to be able to control waters of a 200-year event which is 15 times the flow seen today. There are no plans to build in the next 10 years. When they do build there will be a hard surface trail on top regardless of what other trails might be built.

Funding sources have complex requirements; some don't permit buying property, other funds can't be used to build. Generally, the county doesn't use condemnation to get land.

There is a difference between a certified levee (Army Corps of Engineers) and an accredited levee (FEMA); levees accredited by FEMA result in lower cost of flood insurance

Ann-marie would need to work with engineers to understand flood risks on shelves along levee before allowing trails on them. Levee is a long-term project; no opportunity for trail in the near future.

Bob suggests soft surface trails along levees; flyover railroad tracks; use Murray Morgan & Millroy bridges. This could be in addition to a hard-surface trail along River Road after new SR 167 built.

With written permission, a group might be willing to mow the bench area along River Road. She would need to check with maintenance crews. Army Corps of Engineers comes in to inspect the levee frequently. There are also agreements with the Puyallup Tribe regarding vegetation so the county must combine differing standards for maintenance. She will investigate the possibility of allowing maintenance by a community group. A trail along south side of river traps users between river and highway. It is not really safe; there is poor access to trail.

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

Nov 14

Dec 12

January 9, 2019: Annual Planning Meeting Noon – 4 pm

Executive Committee meetings are usually held 7-10 days before the next board meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, 11/5, 2 pm, [Urban Timber Coffee, Microbrew & Wine](#) 6621 166th Ave E, Sumner, WA

ForeverGreen Vision Statement:

A countywide system of trails connecting all of Pierce County's communities. The system links sidewalks, bike lanes, and local pathways into an integrated network for safe, convenient, non-motorized travel.

ForeverGreen Mission Statement:

To educate on the importance of and advocate for the funding and implementation of a system of multi-use trails that links each community and jurisdiction in Pierce County and to promote public stewardship of trails. ForeverGreen will work inclusively with all interested trail stakeholder and user groups to promote coordinated policy, direction, and priorities for trail plan implementation and operations.