

**ForeverGreen Board Retreat**  
**January 14, 2009**  
**Snake Lake Nature Center, Tacoma**  
**12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**Attended:** Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Brianna Charbonnel, Skip Ferrucci, Kirsten Frandsen, Scott Gallacher, Jayme Gordon Pleasants, Kirk Kirkland, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, and David Seago.

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon Pleasants

**Open and Introduction:** 12:10 p.m.

**Welcome:**

- ForeverGreen President Jane Moore opened the meeting with round table introductions.

**Membership:**

- Tim formally and officially welcomed new board members David Seago, Scott Gallacher, and Brianna Charbonnel.
- Jayme passed along a message from Jake Fey that he has asked Kurt Miller about joining the board and he (Kurt) is interested. Follow up discussions needed.

**Short and Long Term Goals:**

- Last year's short term goals were reviewed and evaluated. Many of the goals were met and will remain on the list as goals for 2009.
- The new list of 2009 short term goals is attached. Changes, additions, and corrections are noted. It will be presented at the February board meeting for formal adoption.
- A few minor changes were made to the long term goals. They are also attached for review and the revisions will need to be formally adopted by the board as well.

**Sales Tax Legislation:**

- On January 13, Kirk and Tim met with the Tacoma Wheelmen and Bob Myrick to discuss their concerns and opposition to the proposed legislation. One concern the Wheelmen/Myrick have is that the funding should go through something other than a recreational body – e.g. Public Works rather than Parks Dept. Another concern is that language for “trails” prohibits using the funding for things such as sidewalks, bike lanes, etc. They also don't want to see a repeat of the Zoo-Trek tax problem where money was taken away from trails and used only for parks. Kirk explained that the “parks” language is needed in the legislation in order to retain the support of Tacoma Metro Parks and Pierce County Parks. Also, we don't want to make the legislation too restrictive because money needs to be available to develop trailheads, restrooms, maintenance, etc.
- Tim and Kirk were largely successful in convincing the Wheelmen and Myrick that many of their concerns were due to misunderstandings, which were pretty well cleared up during the meeting. It would be good if the Wheelmen clarified that Myrick speaks on his own behalf, not necessarily that of the club. Finally,

Myrick's concerns and criticisms will be addressed directly with Senator Kastama. There are plans to meet with the Wheelmen again at the end of the month.

- Another group with some misconceptions about the legislation is the Foothills Coalition. Members of the ForeverGreen board volunteered to attend the Foothills' annual meeting on January 22 to answer questions and help clarify things if needed. Ernie and Kirk will talk more about the best way to approach the Foothills Coalition to address their concerns and win their support.
- ForeverGreen has been invited to give a lunchtime presentation to the Pierce County delegation on February 5.
- Jim Hedrick has been hired to lobby for this legislation and is working with Transportation Choices, a group that has a similar agenda for non-motorized transportation that is compatible with ForeverGreen's mission.
- Lobby Day is set for February 24 in Olympia. Kirk has more information.
- The goal right now is to get the legislation passed, and details (many addressing current concerns and misunderstandings) will be ironed out later.

#### **Pierce County Trails Conference Review:**

- One question that was discussed was whether ForeverGreen should still try to hold the conference, even if funding is tight this year. Suggestions included dropping the meal if necessary, but try to keep it if it can be afforded; and looking for sponsors to help offset costs. If we go after sponsors, the effort needs to start now. Possible sponsors mentioned were: Comcast, Click, Group Health, Port of Tacoma, Tacoma Wheelmen, Foothills Coalition, Multi Care, WA Bicycle Alliance, Boeing "Good Neighbors", Weyerhaeuser, Cascade Bicycle Club, Raleigh Bicycles, and Franciscan Health Systems.
- Keynote and dinner time speakers will be re-evaluated.
- Breakout sessions should be longer, but try to keep a variety of topics.
- Save-the-date notices should be sent out sooner.
- Kirsten suggested that we might be able to collaborate with the TPCHD, who will be sponsoring a speaker series on the built environment.
- Possible dates for the 2009 conference: November 18 or 19 or December 2.
- ForeverGreen has tentatively been invited to help put on the Washington State Trails Coalition conference in Tacoma in 2010. The Foothills Coalition is the local lead, and while ForeverGreen is happy to help, a formal invitation from either the Foothills Coalition and/or the state Trails Coalition would be appropriate and provide the direction needed in order for ForeverGreen to understand its roles and responsibilities.

#### **Board Business:**

- *Tim moved to approve the November board meeting minutes as presented. Ernie seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.*
- The 2008 and 2009 (projected) budgets were reviewed and discussed. ForeverGreen finished 2008 with a net income of \$3,574. Expenses are expected to exceed income in 2009. In particular, we have lost our annual funding from Sumner, and did not receive the \$5,000 grant from Pierce County that we've had the past two years.

- We should consider asking the GTCF to “back fund” our account if cash flow becomes a critical issue.
- Kirk presented a new draft of the contract with the GTCF. The language and passages at issue have been clarified and the contract revised. *Tim moved to approve the revised GTCF contract as written. Ernie seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.* Kirk will finalize the contract with the GTCF.

### **Information Sharing:**

- Kirk – The Puyallup Tribe wants to extend a trail through the First Creek gulch up to the Salishan development. This is a significant breakthrough with the Tribe and great progress on the Puyallup-Tacoma trail connection.
- David – Asked about the proposed Kopachuck and Joemma State Parks closures. Scott responded that both Key Peninsula and Peninsula Metro Park Districts are discussing the possibility of taking them over from the state, but there are still many details to be considered.
- Jayme – Announced a meeting hosted by WADOT for public comment on the scoping study for improvements to SR-302. Also, she has been invited to attend a meeting in Auburn with representatives from the PSRC about missing links in the Interurban Trail/King-Pierce Co. trail connections and possible federal funding.
- John – Half of the Cascade Land Conservancy’s 2008 land acquisitions were in Pierce County. Also, the CLC’s legislative agenda is focused on the “Urban Villages” component of the TDR program. There will also be a CLC meeting in Tacoma on January 29.
- Bryan – There was flood damage to the Carbon River Road at the Mowich “Y” and the road to Paradise. Dave Uberuaga is currently the temporary acting director of Yosemite National Park, but he should hopefully be back at Mt. Rainier later this year.
- Scott – Key Pen Parks is taking part in the SR-302 re-alignment study Jayme mentioned earlier, and they are pushing for a non-motorized component. He has also been in communication with Kitsap and Mason Counties about cross-county trail connections.
- Ernie – The Puyallup RiverWalk Trail survived the recent flood event rather well; part of the trail has already been re-opened. On the Foothills Trail, however, the Gale Creek Canyon section of the trail was the most severely hit area during the floods.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.**

**The next board meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.**