

**ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting
Tacoma Nature Center
Minutes for November 9th, 2016**

In Attendance: Chris Beale (President), Brianna Charbonnel, Gary Cooper, Mary Dodsworth, Buzz Grant, Jane Moore (Executive Director), Alan Carter Mortimer, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps (Secretary), Lyle Quasim, Terry Reid, Tony Tipton, George Walk (Vice President)
Guests: Don Partington, Chuck Morrison

President Chris Beale called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

Introductions

Review and Approve Minutes The minutes were approved unanimously.

Financial Report Executive Director Jane Moore pointed the Board to the financials on the back of the agenda. The total assets in the US Bank and GTCF are \$64,671, of which \$45,359 are designated for PWI work. Some financial details from the Trails Conference are being finalized.

Executive Director Report Jane announced that the Pierce County Parks Impact Fee increase was adopted by the full County Council yesterday. She also mentioned that she attended the Washington State Trails Conference along with Buzz, Don, and Alan.

Jane informed the Board that ForeverGreen will receive a Walkability grant from the Health Department. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition agreed to be the financial agent for the grant.

Terry and Jane mentioned that a Speak Up for Trails event was held in Sumner. Nine people attended, including a Councilmember from both Sumner and Puyallup.

2017 Officers Jane told the Board that the Vice-President and Secretary want to be replaced and the Treasurer may be asked to step down because of his lack of involvement. Chris said that he is willing to be nominated as President again. Terry Reid indicated that he will consider being nominated to Vice-President. Nominations and elections will occur at the December meeting.

Organizational Development Chris led the Board through revisions to the ForeverGreen bylaws that are suggested by Liz Heath. The existing bylaws are on the Board web page and will be E-mailed to Board members. Among the recommendations are that Board members are limited to serving two, three-year terms. Barbara and Kirk would be exempt from term limits, as founding members. There was some concern that certain member organizations would not be represented at the table if term limits were instated.

The suggested bylaw revision to not allow proxy and email voting was questioned, since some members use email voting with other boards and committees. Jane will check into the specifics of what State law allows in terms of email voting.

The official name for the Board was discussed. The Articles of Incorporation include the name “ForeverGreen Council”, but the Board decided a few years ago to file with the State under the new working name of “ForeverGreen Trails.” The Board voted unanimously to change the name to “ForeverGreen Trails” in the Articles of Incorporation.

The Whistleblower policy was discussed. There was a question as to why all activities would be reported to the Executive Director, when some might be more appropriate to direct to law enforcement. This policy will be revisited next month due to this question.

The Compensation policy was discussed. Mary feels that the financial status of the organization should be part of the consideration when determining compensation. Other Board members concurred. This policy will also be revisited next month in light of this comment.

The Conflict of Interest policy was reviewed. There were no comments on this one and the Board unanimously voted to approve it.

The Document Retention policy was discussed. Since this policy is based on legal requirements, there wasn't much need to discuss. Jane questioned whether hard copies of all of the documents need to be on file. Tony and others assured her that they can be stored digitally. Alan pointed out a potential conflict in that page 1 lists "contracts, mortgages, notes and leases" at 10 years, while page 2 lists "leases, mortgages, and security agreements" at 7 years. In light of Alan's comment, this policy will be revisited at the next meeting.

The Gift Acceptance policy was reviewed. There were no comments on this one and the Board unanimously voted to approve it.

Other Information Don reported that a meeting will be set up to discuss tying the Willapa Hills Trail to the John Wayne Trail. The biggest gap in this system is in Pierce County. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition has requested that both the Pierce and Lewis County Parks departments incorporate a connection within their trail plans. Don requested that ForeverGreen Trails appoint a member to attend the meeting(s). Bob suggested that Cascade Bikes have a representative at these meetings also. Bob and Jane both agreed to represent ForeverGreen in these discussions.

Gary suggested that we discuss 2017 goals soon. Chris and Jane assured him that they will be discussed at the January retreat. Three year goals will also need to be created, as required of 501(c)(3) organizations.

Shawn announced that he was recently elected the Vice-Chair of the Puget Sound Regional Council Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He offered to periodically report on the work of the Committee including the 2017 update of the Active Transportation Plan of Transportation 2040.

Terry Reid reported that Bonney Lake is looking to acquire property for the Fennel Creek Trail and parks. He mentioned that some of the property is in the unincorporated area, so Pierce County may be asked for assistance in the process.

Bob said he would like discussions to resume about both the Pipeline Trail and the trail along the Puyallup River.

Alan reported that the Garden Conservancy is looking for someone to take over the Chase Garden near Orting. Tony said he is aware of this and that the property consists of four acres with a house on it. It is on a hillside, not on a trail. Tony indicated that they are looking for financial stability due to maintenance costs.

Chris adjourned the meeting at 1:28 pm.