

**ForeverGreen Trails Board Meeting
Tacoma Nature Center
Minutes for October 21, 2015**

In Attendance: Barbara Skinner, Brianna Charbonnel, Bryan Bowden, Chris Beale, David Boe, Diane Wiatr, Gary Cooper, George Walk, Jane Moore, Terry Lee, Terry Reid, Tony Tipton

President Bryan Bowden called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Review and Approve Minutes Chris moved approval of the minutes, Barbara seconded. The motion was approved.

Financial Report Executive Director Jane Moore reported that our balances are \$54,614 in US Bank and \$11,420 with the GTCF. Of these funds, \$52,200 are tied to PWI COI activities, leaving \$13,800 of our own money on reserve. These numbers do not include revenue/expenses from the trails conference. Jane briefly reviewed conference financial report. Revenue included \$1643 from registrations and \$5250 from sponsors with another \$2000 expected. Expenses were \$133 service fees for registrations, \$1357 for caterer, and about \$170 for other expenses. Resulting net was \$5236. Registrations covered almost all expenses.

November & December meetings

The Board will still meet in Puyallup on Nov. 18th at noon even though the PSRC Active Transportation Workshop is on Nov. 17th). We will decide in November if we will meet in December.

Trails Conference Review

- Attendance was good with many first-time attendees with many new to trails. Many comments that this was best conference ever. Mixed opinion on food; most thought was good; others thought "too gloppy".
- Pre-conference trail walk had 17 people which was more than expected.
- Conference contained an incredible amount of information. It seemed long.
 - Have written reports on updates instead of spoken.
 - Have only one panel
 - Jam less information into a 4-hour time
- Suggest sending an email survey to attendees: how did you hear about the conference; what did you like; what could be better; what zip code do you live in.
- Suggest sending special invitations to parks and planning staff as well as elected officials and parks board members/commissioners. They should be recognized them at the event. Jane noted that for the past 2-3 years she has sent email invitations to the majority of those people. Personal invitations from board members who know or live in district of the elected officials would be likely to help increase attendance.
- Presentation slides were hard to read.
- Need more information about how to stay involved; recruiting for organizations; provide contact information.
- Suggest lining up keynote speaker early in the year; speak on good topic related to trails or outdoor recreation; use speaker name to promote conference; develop theme early in the year.
- There was not enough time to talk with others at the conference; should build time for networking in; trail walk was a good opportunity to talk.
- We didn't take advantage of having 8-10 people at a table; should have a facilitator at each table and discuss a question during dinner.
- Consider earlier start time: would be a challenge for those who work; might be harder to get volunteers.

- Show a streaming video of trails; everyone submit some video from local trails; let people experience what it's like to visit the trails.
- Post a large regional trail map containing all trails that will be completed soon; highlight projects finished in the last 2 years; highlight proposed projects that need support. Consider whether to include every trail or just the major ones.
- Consider offering pre-conference walk and bike ride if the location allows.
- Registration fee of \$20 was reasonable and allowed us to almost break even without sponsorships. Consider charging \$25 and provide scholarships for those in need. We will have \$500 funding from Puyallup Watershed Initiative available for scholarships in 2016.

2016 Trails Conference Planning

AT COI has received additional grant funding that includes \$2000 for the 2016 trails conference. However, that grant now ends September 15, 2016; it was expected to go through April 2017. All funds must be spent by 9/15/16. Discussed changing date of conference but feel that would hurt attendance. Will plan to hold the conference in late October or early November after the Washington State Trails Conference scheduled October 13-15, 2016 in Richland. We can still use the funds by paying expenses in advance.

Puyallup Watershed Initiative – Active Transportation Community of Interest

The Russell Family Foundation awarded AT COI \$205,000 for Year 2 activities.

Those funds were used to leverage another grant for \$160,000 for activities 11/15/15 through 9/15/16.

Park Impact Fee Proposal

Pierce County Council is considering increasing the Park Impact Fee from \$385 per new single unit dwelling to \$2300 which is more in-line with charges in this area. This increase is expected to provide an additional \$40 million revenue with about \$10 million for trails. The impact fee was established in 1996 and has never been updated. County Council will consider this issue at budget hearings 10/28 and 11/6. Jane will email information to the board.

News, Updates, and Announcements

- David Boe's term on the Tacoma City Council will end. He can ask another city council member to serve on ForeverGreen board; maybe one who is not already involved in work with trails. He thinks an at-large council member would be better than one who serves a specific district.
- Pierce County Parks will hold a trails prioritization meeting on November 3.
- City of Tacoma has engaged a firm to evaluate a potential bike share program. This would most likely be located Downtown, Point Defiance, or Ruston Way.
- There will be a Slow Social bike ride on Saturday starting 2 pm at People's Park and ending with a free ice cream cone at Ice Cream Social on 6th Ave.
- Puyallup has a developer looking at area between Riverwalk and Foothills trails; planning a 3.1 million square foot warehouse on the Knutsen/van Lierop property; includes analysis of shoreline public access requirements. City may ask Pierce County PALS to require developer to build trail connection. Construction expected in 2016-2017.
- Pierce County has purchased a second house to provide land to expand the East Puyallup trailhead.
- City of Puyallup now owns one property in the Riverwalk gap but 2 or 3 remain.

Bryan adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm.