

**ForeverGreen Board Meeting**  
**July 9, 2008**  
**Tacoma Metro Parks, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Attendance:** Ernie Bay, Bryan Bowden, Kirsten Frandsen, Jayme Gordon, Kirk Kirkland, Kathy Kravit-Smith, Terry Lee, Jane Moore, John Olson, Tim Payne, and Barbara Skinner.

**Minutes Taken by:** Jayme Gordon. President Ernie Bay opened the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

- *Barbara moved to approve the June board meeting minutes with one typographical correction in John Olson's information sharing recap. Kirk seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

**Finances:**

- *Funding update* – Kirk and Barbara are working on a funding request letter to Pierce County cities. Kirk is personalizing each letter, and tailoring the contents to relate to trail needs/accomplishments in each city.
- *Sales Tax Legislation* – Kirk outlined his plan to convene a committee in September of well connected individuals with legislative experience (e.g. Jim Kastama). Kathy asked if any changes have been made to the sales tax proposal. Kirk responded that at this time, there have not been any changes to the proposal. Early forays have not met any opposition as of yet. That may change the further this moves along.
- *Executive Director Salary* – Jayme presented an invoice from the Pierce Conservation District to cover her salary (\$2,455.55), as well as mileage (\$75.25) and copy expenses (\$15.90) incurred over the second quarter. The total invoice amount was for \$2,546.70. *Terry moved to approve payment of the invoice. Barbara seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.*

**Old Business:**

- *Trails Assistance updates* – Barbara reported that Sumner has \$1 million that they can leverage for \$1 million more to use for trail development. Jayme reported that the contract with Parametrix for the trail route finding project in Fife has been finalized. Bryan and Kirk will be in touch with Curt Warber (Parametrix) to make sure the project is moving forward. Also, Kirk and Terry have met with John Ladenburg about involving the Puyallup Tribe in the Fife trail planning process. They have also spoken with Executive staff George Walk and Chris Schutz. All were supportive and will help facilitate ForeverGreen's meeting with Tribe officials. As it turns out, the Tribe's planning person, Raul Ramos, is a bicycling enthusiast. This could provide an additional incentive for the Tribe to participate. It was also mentioned that if the trail is connected to the Chief Leschi School, the "Safe Routes to School" grant and similar funding options become available. Kirk will arrange a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Ramos to explore all of these ideas further.
- *501 c 3 Non-Profit Status* – If the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is ok with keeping ForeverGreen under its wings, then the board would prefer to maintain the status quo relationship rather than pursue 501 c 3 status. Barbara volunteered to contact the Foundation and get their input on the matter.

- *Annual Trails Conference* – Input from the Trails Advisory Committee and ForeverGreen board will provide the basis for planning this year’s Pierce County Trails Conference. There will be a special planning meeting on Wednesday, August 20, at the Pierce Conservation District office, 3:00-4:30 p.m. Any board member wishing to participate is encouraged to come. Kathy requested that the new countywide trail plan be offered as a breakout session topic.

**New Business:**

- *Train to Mountain Excursion* – This summer and fall, NW Trek is offering rides from Tacoma to Eatonville on the train tracks that the proposed “trail-with-rail” project would parallel. Taking this train ride will provide board members with an opportunity to see the proposed route, including both the highlights and the challenges. The train ride package is an all-day event and includes a 4-hour visit to NW Trek. September 27 and October 11 were decided on as the preferred dates to do this. Cost of the train ride is \$60 (adult), \$55 (senior), and \$40 (children). Board members are responsible for purchasing their own tickets; family and friends are welcome. Tickets must be reserved in advance. Please visit [www.nwtrek.org](http://www.nwtrek.org) for more information. Ticket information is available at [reserve@nwtrek.org](mailto:reserve@nwtrek.org) or (360) 832-7166. Bryan can provide a copy of the rail-with-trail feasibility study prior to the excursion.
- *Other #1* – Barbara asked a follow up question to Tim’s comments from last month’s information sharing about WADOT’s agreement to improve trail-road connections on both sides of the new Narrows Bridge. Tim answered that there has been some movement forward on this issue, at least on WADOT’s end of things. Terry offered to help follow up on this situation. On a side note, a rumor was raised about Dana Brown leaving Tacoma’s non-motorized transportation planning office. Kirsten dispelled the rumor and said that she’s heard that Dana is not leaving. Instead, the city’s Commuter Trip Reduction person (Diane Wiatr) will be moving over to work with Dana and boost capacity of the non-motorized transportation office.
- *Other #2* – Bryan asked if anyone had information about Tacoma’s new Open Space Habitat and Recreation Plan, and whether there is a role in there for ForeverGreen. The OSHRP is being done in conjunction with the Green Tacoma Partnership and Metro Parks to inventory ownership of current open spaces in Tacoma. Results show that more than half of the city’s open space is in private ownership. Trails are not a major component of the OSHRP; however, the plan is still in draft form so ForeverGreen could submit comments. Elliott Barnett is the city planner in charge of this effort.

**News, Updates, and Announcements:**

- *Kirsten* – The TPCHD has submitted a grant to the Center for Disease Control for \$2.7 million. The grant is for increasing communication among active living/ healthy eating efforts in Pierce County. The grant also includes some money to distribute to local groups. She is also working on an obesity summit that will likely be held in September.
- *John* – The Conservation Futures Citizens Advisory Board has completed their required review, which will be submitted to the Pierce County Council. In related news, the proposal for a Boys and Girls Club facility at the Meridian Habitat Park is causing concern among the CAB. Kathy spoke to the master planning effort

Parks is undertaking for the Habitat Park property. John also reported that the Cascade Land Conservancy awards breakfast in May raised \$750k. Three out of four major projects just approved by CLC are in Pierce County. CLC's Pierce County luncheon is set for September 25. CLC recently closed on an additional easement in the Carbon River Valley, and the Cascade Agenda recently received an international award from the London Financial Times.

- *Terry* – Terry announced that he is now back to bicycling regularly and participated in the Tacoma Wheelmen's "Big Wheel's Ride." He echoed Tim's concern about the lack of signage at the 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. portion of the Scott Pierson Trail. The Narrows Gate property has been appraised at \$550k, and he is working with Peninsula Metro Parks to purchase it for a trailhead. Phase 2 of the Cushman Trail is out to bid right now. He has included a request for road shoulder improvements from the Cushman Trail to Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. He continues to follow discussions about looping the trail under the west end of the Narrows Bridge (issues like homeland security still need to be worked out). He recognizes the potential conflicts between open space, T/PDR, trails, and non-motorized transportation that are currently brewing and the need to coordinate these issues. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 29 at the Chambers Bay properties for two new parks and one mile of new trail, as well as groundbreaking for the pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks. The effort to acquire the Tacoma Narrows airport is still moving forward; it would provide miles of trail and require a connection to the Cushman Trail. A grant to purchase the Devil's Head property (at the southern tip of the Key Peninsula) would provide a stop along the Cascadia Marine Trail.
- *Bryan* – Mt. Rainier National Park recently held public meetings to solicit input on management of the Carbon River Road, which was partly destroyed during the 2006 floods and is no longer open to vehicle traffic. Three options have been presented to the public for feedback, which will continue until July 31. The Park has decided to conduct an environmental assessment to further weigh these options.
- *Kathy* – The Ashford Park project (which will contain the Ashford-Elbe trailhead) is out to bid and will hopefully be constructed by fall. She reiterated what Terry said about Cushman Trail Phase 2 going out to bid. Construction is currently underway on one section of the Foothills Trail between South Prairie and Buckley. She is also overseeing two major planning documents: the PROS Plan and the Pierce County Regional Trail Plan. The Regional Trail Plan will include a Technical Advisory Committee component. She encouraged ForeverGreen to have representation on the TAC and provided a memo with details to Jayme.
- *Ernie* – Reported that Edgewood is ready to start on a trailhead for their part of the Interurban Trail.

#### **Closing Comments:**

- Ernie asked about Mt. Rainier's shuttle program. Bryan responded that the established shuttles are doing well, but the new shuttle routes have been underperforming.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

**The next board meeting will be Wednesday, September 10, 12-1:30 p.m. at the Tacoma Metro Parks headquarters.**