



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2019

Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

Sustainability Committee (previously called *Organizational Development*) – Jane & Terry

Terry reviewed comments from exit interview with Alexia Henderson.

President Terry Reid called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

Introductions

Andrew Austin has accepted a new position and is no longer with Metro Parks Tacoma; they have not yet designated a replacement.

Board Members: Miae Aramori, Chris Beale, Mary Dodsworth, Alan Carter Mortimer, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Terry Reid. Excused: Rich Bankhead, George Walk

Staff: Jane Moore

Guests: Letticia Neal, Amy VanBerg, Larry Leveen, Bill Hilton for Foothills Coalition.

May Trail Presentation: Canyon Road Regional Connection Project – Letticia Neal

Project is northernmost piece of Canyon Road; will extend current road across river and Fife into new SR167. Will have great benefits for all modes of transportation. Nearly 30 years of study and public process since 1992. Connect into City of Fife at 70th Ave East. Will have sidewalks, curb & gutter, illumination; new grade separated crossing over BNSF; new bridge over Puyallup River designed for today's vehicles & traffic; lots of wetlands mitigation work around Canyon Creek. Have begun purchasing needed property; environmental permitting & NEPA underway. Millroy Bridge is eligible to be on Historic Register – steel truss bridge is very unusual – many steps before could remove. Will work with state cultural resources on what to do; will not be destroyed and sold for scrap metal. Bridge is safe, just not up to current standards. New bridge will have additional lanes, pedestrian and bicycle lanes in both directions. Ongoing outreach and engagement with public, jurisdictions, and legislators. Online open house last fall had more than 4600 visitors. 35,000 people work in Canyon Road corridor but live elsewhere. Building a complete street not just a freight corridor; expected continued growth in the area especially Fredrickson area. Railroad crossing area (Pioneer Way to 52nd St) should be ready for construction by end of 2021. River crossing (52nd St to 70th Ave E) ready by end 2024. Construction on both should start by early 2025 based on funding forecasts; combining projects produces more funding opportunities; complete by end 2027. Design and ROW are fully funded. Have completed evaluation of river crossing; will be grade separated so no signals/crossings of River Road or Levee Road; no direct motor connections to bridge from River Road or Levee Road; will have direct non-motorized connections. Design will not interfere with existing Riverwalk Trail; will allow trail access from either side of bridge from both River Road and Levee Road.

Consent Agenda

March minutes – no quorum in April; financial report; Staff Reports – Mary moved to approve; Shawn seconded; approved.

Staff Reports

Alexia Henderson has resigned as Program & Communications Coordinator as she got a full-time job as biologist with state Fish & Wildlife; Terry met her for exit interview last week; she has handed over notes and had some pointers. Announcement posted for job opening; will interview candidate this afternoon.

Earth Day event at Edison City Alehouse was good; owners donated \$250 to us. Trails & Ales will be held there May 29.

Yelm to Roy Trail Update - Larry Leveen 360-357-3871

Connecting Yelm and Roy with 4.8 miles of Prairie Pride. Town of Roy used to be named Media as it was midway point between 2 cities. Yelm owns the railroad and right of way; have now applied to railbank the line; railroad tracks from Prairie Line as in downtown Tacoma. Hwy 507 is the only connection between Yelm and Roy so has heavy traffic at commute times; generally, 2-3 lane road; only crossing of Nisqually River in the area – next is 15 miles downstream. Most of routes lack sidewalks; shoulders are inconsistent width and frequently have debris; posted speeds are 35-50 mph; traffic regularly exceeds limits. Bridges over Centralia Canal and Nisqually River are intact; trail is consistent with Thurston & Pierce planning documents. Local economy, community building, health, transit access, and social justice benefits for Roy. System efficiency, health & wellness, youth safety, and builds local bike network benefits for Yelm. Tourism, mobility, recreation options, traffic safety, and community enhancement benefits for all.

Trail Coalition: TWBC, Woodland Trail Greenway Assn, Cascade Bicycle Club, City of Yelm, Capital Bicycling Club, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, ForeverGreen Trails, Nisqually Land Trust

Thanks to FGT for support. The request going forward is that FGT be a sponsor for grant applications for this project and help with providing local match dollars if possible. We can provide letters of support and convene meetings across jurisdictions if needed; monetary support would be very limited. Opportunity to have a table at Pierce County Trails Conference to spread the word.

Also trying to get trail into Pierce County Trails Plan and get WSDOT involved to increase safety along a dangerous highway. Applying for a National Park Service grant for in-kind planning help. Sharing this presentation with elected officials.

Trail Community Report Card – Chris Beale

For a few years, we have been trying a Certified Trails Community program based on National Arbor Day program. This concept has been underdeveloped and hard to develop with our small size. Washington Environmental Council has developed "Nature's Scorecard" to rate communities. Easy to see how community could improve by meeting more criteria. We could turn Certified to scorecard program with 5 criteria (same as current plan); rank community and give score – up to 5 stars. We would need to do some auditing to check policies and programs; request proclamations in various communities – easy, make request to mayor or clerk's office and have someone at meeting to receive proclamation. Could create an assistance tool kit with model policy language, ideas for programming

an event, help identify funding options for trails. Focus now on getting jurisdictions to do proclamations and work on scorecard later in year.

Mary notes that this program had been put on back burner due to lack of capacity; Terry notes that program did not have much meaning, but this change might increase popularity. Could work on proclamations with jurisdictions that will be doing trails day events or have group in their area hosting event. Chris will help work on this; Miae can approach Board of Health.

Can work on accumulating information for scorecards and then use in future to get more involved.

Valley Cities Group – 2008 MOU; reconvene group?

Might be able to reactivate the group and make progress on completing connections. Bob notes we need to get down the hill from Edgewood – involve City of Pacific, King County Parks and King County Public Works – there is a closed road maintained by mountain bike group that provides a good connection; use a more targeted group of cities – where missing links exist. Mary notes that part of the purpose of FGT is to bring groups together but is not part of current high priority work plan; wants to have report card on status of current work plan.

June might be a good meeting to revisit our work plan and see where we are. Jane will provide a progress report. She will also research what happened after Valley Cities MOU was signed.

Event Updates

Trails & Ales – items for raffle needed; hope board members can attend; promoting through social media and our email list. Tiffany Odell, Pierce County Parks Planner will speak.

Pierce County Trails Day – events; board participation

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EYFhvgtdnfy6Ql0Zb0P3I9rDaeYnoz3wNkgqLGe26_U/edit?usp=sharing

Hope board members can attend events; Bob and Rich plan to host events. Miae has contacts at Eastside Boys & Girls Club. She will send to Jane & Terry to share with Rich. Eastside Family Support Center might also be a contact.

Trail Updates & News

Terry: Pierce County did very well in funding for trails in state capital budget.

Celebration of Life for Buzz Grant will be June 21, 4-7 pm; details pending

Meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Trails Conference Planning Committee – location; theme

Mary, Alan, Terry, Jane

Location: Puyallup – Pioneer Pavilion – if city would subsidize; Terry will check with Chris and/or Sarah Harris. Pierce County Environmental Services Building at Chambers Bay; Pierce College – Mary can check on availability at both campuses; Pagoda at Point Defiance; Point Defiance Zoo classrooms? Courthouse Square – upstairs or downstairs; Mary will ask Dean Burke & Roxanne for ideas. Cheney Stadium? Sprinker?? Lakewood Community Center gym;

Theme: ???

Sessions:

1. Homeless encampments, ranger programs; Making Trails Accessible, Safe & Secure; not entire program but one session – practical solutions for dealing with problem at differing

budget levels. Olympia Park Ranger Program; MPT development programs; Bonney Lake/Roy. Mary can start putting materials together.

2. Youth Involvement: WTA Youth Ambassador program; NYC programs; future trail stewards; court diversion program; youth bike organization
3. Craig Romano – urban trail guidebooks for King & Thurston Counties; none for Pierce; possible keynote speaker

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

June 12 – Presentations: Fennel Creek Trail, Gary Leaf;

July 10 - State Transportation Budget, Jake Fey

August 14 Sept 11 Oct 9 Nov 13 Dec 11

July & August meetings at Metro Park Tacoma Headquarters, 4902 S 19th St.

Executive Committee meetings are usually held the last Thursday of each month.

Next meeting: Thursday 5/30/19, 3 pm, [Urban Timber Coffee, Microbrew & Wine](#) 6621 166th Ave E, Sumner

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 and recreation. The system is valued, used and cared for by local residents and contributes to the livability and economy of Pierce County.

ForeverGreen Mission Statement:

Support a countywide system of trails through education, advocacy, promotion, collaboration, and stewardship.

March Staff Reports

Executive Director

- a. AT COI – no meeting
- b. Step It Up – meeting; one goal is to increase trails; will collect information related to standards, existing trails, etc.
- c. Meetings:
 - i. City of DuPont – Trails & Ales event July 16? Lodging tax grant funding – we cannot manage this year due to lack of staff
 - ii. Yelm to Roy Trail – meeting; support – present again in May
 - iii. SR 167 Stakeholder Group – no meeting until May
 - iv. Pierce County Parks Professionals Group – next meeting May 3, 9-noon – UP – presentation by Pierce County Parks and Pierce Outdoor LIFE on youth development partnership; Jane will be out of town; Terry will try to attend.
 - v. Meeting with Rainier Guest Services – potential for future collaboration particularly marketing of our events; interested in Park Rx program.
 - vi. Scheduled meeting with Fife Parks – Terry will meet with parks director on Tuesday regarding PC Trails Day.
- d. Edison City Alehouse Earth Day Event – donated \$250 to ForeverGreen Trails
- e. Plans/Updates
 - i. WSDOT Active Transportation Plan – Jane needs to review and send out information.
 - ii. PC Parks - PROS Update due 3/1/2020; 2020-2026 Strategic Plan - Jane needs to review and send out information.
 - iii. Community Plan updates: Fredrickson, Mid-County, Parkland-Spanaway-Midway, South Hill - Website: www.piercecountywa.gov/cpupdate - Jane needs to review and send out information.

Project & Communications Coordinator

Alexia accepted full-time position with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Her last day is May 2.

We have started advertising open position; could divide into 2 positions: Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator depending on interest and qualifications of applicants. Each would be 10 hours/week so no overall increase in payroll expenses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1-31, all days, Pierce County Bike Month, https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/public_works/mobility_options/bike_month

May 6, Monday, 9:00 AM, 3:00 PM, Transportation Advocacy Day - Pierce County, Court House Square Gallery, <http://www.downtownontheho.com/engage/advocate/transportation-advocacy-day>

May 8, Wednesday, all day, Give BIG 2019, email/on-line, <https://www.givebig2019.org/>

May 17, Friday, all day, Bike to Work Day, various,

May 29, Wednesday, 6:00 PM, 8:00 PM, Trails & Ales, Edison City Alehouse, www.forevergreentrails.org

June 1, Saturday, all day, all day, National Trails Day - American Hiking Society, anywhere, <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

June 1, Saturday, Rainier to Ruston Relay, Mt Rainier to Ruston Way, <https://www.rainiertoruston.com>

June 1, Saturday, 10:00 AM, 1:00 PM, University Place Duck Daze, parade-Bridgeport Way 27th to 37th, <http://cityofup.com/duck-daze-june-1-2019>

June 5, Wednesday, 11:30 AM, 12:30 PM, Walk Tacoma - Architecture Walk, 1201 Pacific Ave Plaza, <http://www.downtownontheho.com/go/walking>

June 5, Wednesday, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM, Walk Tacoma - Architecture Walk, 1201 Pacific Ave Plaza, <http://www.downtownontheho.com/go/walking>

June 13, Thursday, 6:16 PM, 9:15 PM, Short Course on Local Planning with Emphasis on Transportation, BCRA 2106 Pacific Ave. Tacoma. Hosted by ForeverGreen Trails, Downtown On the Go, & City of Tacoma

June 19, Wednesday, 5:15 PM, 6:30 PM, Walk Tacoma - Museum Walk, Children's Museum of Tacoma Pacific Ave & S 15th, <http://www.downtownontheho.com/go/walking>

July 20, Saturday, Buckley & Orting Half Marathon and 10K, VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! <https://bnohalf.com/>

July 27, Saturday, Pierce County Trails Day, multiple events, <https://www.forevergreentrails.org/>

September 5, Thursday, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Green Drinks Tacoma (FGT hosting), location TBD <https://www.facebook.com/greendrinks253/>

October 17, Thursday, 4:00 PM-8:30 PM, Pierce County Trails Conference, location TBD