



# ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

## Board Meeting Minutes

**March 13, 2019**                      **12:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

### Attendees

Alan Carter Mortimer-Vice-President/Secretary, Mary Dodsworth, Roxanne Miles, Jane Moore-Executive Director, Bob Myrick, Shawn Phelps, Terry Reid-President, George Walk-Treasurer

Excused: Richard Bankhead, Buzz Grant

Guests: Liz Kaster, Puyallup Watershed Initiative Active Transportation Community of Interest

President Terry Reid called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. Agenda modified to place Trail Presentation at start of meeting.

### March Trail Presentation: Tacoma to Puyallup Connection

Liz Kaster with latest updates from the Copenhagen Cohort.

Regional Trail Connection: a corridor for people walking & rolling that is physically separated from car traffic and safe for people of all ages and abilities.

Connecting regional centers and beyond. Linking to transit.

Tacoma to Puyallup connection is a key missing link in our regional trail network. Part of main alignment of Tahoma to Tacoma Trail Network – Mt. Rainier to Pt Defiance Park; one of AT COI's primary goals.

Safety: 358 people hit by cars while walking or bicycling in Pierce County in 2017.

Equity & Access: low income more likely to bike/take transit and more likely to be hit; equal numbers walk;

Strong community support for trails: MPT 2<sup>nd</sup> highest priority (after restrooms); Port of Tacoma also found high priority as did AT COI survey.

Policy support in planning documents for all communities along trail.

Between Puyallup Riverwalk & Thea Foss Esplanade is River Road/SR 167, 5-lane highway, 50 mph PWI AT COI, DOTG worked with Co-Urban and Scan Design Foundation for trip to Copenhagen to study bike design. Building on enthusiasm set goals for Safety, Equity, Livability & Economy, Environment

Agreed on 3 conceptual alignments for potential trail: following new SR 167, Levee Road, & River Road. Open question about what will happen to River Road when new SR 167 completed. Cohort is in agreement not to settle for only 1 route; more than 1 could be developed.

Working with WSDOT to integrate with Gateway Program. Scope of work for route analysis/feasibility study; will include stakeholder outreach and add to advisory group; will have community forum; alternatives refinement & evaluation; potential funding sources. Total budget about \$200,000.

Next Steps: finalize local contributions \$20,000 Fife, Puyallup, MPT; \$30,000 Pierce County, WSDOT, Tacoma; Puyallup Tribal Council will consider when have signed letter. Applying for grant from Port of Tacoma.

Continue engagement with nearby projects: WSDOT, Sound Transit, Canyon Road crossing, others

Also continuing long-term funding conversations; Senator Hobbs, chair of Senate Transportation Committee, included \$500,000 for this project in state budget.

[www.pwi.org/connect253](http://www.pwi.org/connect253) Sign up for project updates.

Stakeholder Advisory Group will meet about 5 times – Copenhagen cohort – during feasibility study  
Community forum: presentations from Group plus opportunity for input. Terry suggests considering smaller events or presentations at regular meetings to obtain broader community input. Timing will depend on when consultant team starts work; will be in middle of process. Idea is to have report by end of year.

Bob suggests Liz coordinate with Pierce County Flood Control since they maintain river landscape now. Also notes that Fife owns paved road for 2-3 miles along top of levee that could be used for trail. Bruce Dees & Associates worked on plan for trail in late 1980's; went all the way to Puget Sound.

Shawn mentions that Bryan Bowden did study a few years ago and found that there is a concrete revetment along river that could possibly be built up for a trail.

Mary – need to be sure there is good ongoing advocacy or WSDOT could drop project.

People have been very supportive to date; no real opposition heard yet.

Biggest railroad questions occur with Levee Road alignment. River Road gets complicated as get into downtown Tacoma; might be able to follow Sound Transit alignment with Tacoma Dome Link Extension.

SR 167 route is significantly longer than other routes.

### **Consent Agenda**

February minutes; financial report; Staff Reports: George moved approval; Shawn seconded; motion approved.

### **Calendar of Events**

Need to know upcoming events in your community that we might participate in; send information to Jane.

### **Transportation Advocacy Day**

Downtown On the Go event scheduled for May 8, 8:30-3:00, location in Tacoma TBD; consider attending. Community Sponsorship available for \$250; name in press releases and social media; no logo on materials. Discussed; consensus was not to be a sponsor this year.

### **Committee Membership & Meetings**

Board members are expected to participate in activities. Two committees are planned for this year; can have meetings before/after board meetings:

- Sustainability Committee – organizational development: Terry will head, Alan
- Conference Planning Committee: Mary, Terry, George

New board members: Terry & Jane met with Miae Aramori, TPCHD; she is interested in participating on the board. FGT & TPCHD could collaborate more around health benefits of trails and healthy communities. Jane will send her a board application form for completion; she should be able to attend next month. Shawn has worked closely with her and thinks she will be a good addition to the board. Shawn moves to approve as board member; George seconds; motion approved without dissent. Mary notes that generally we should have board application completed in advance and distributed to board for review before approval.

### **Trail Updates & News**

Additional information on priorities for Outdoor Sport & Recreation Council: Alan sits on this group that was started by County Councilmember Pam Roach. She does seem to listen to group's recommendations. Now looking at priorities and how to advance them through funding. Jane sent out

list of proposed priorities for board to evaluate. Alan now needs more information as to what would help move a project forward; specific projects that could be funded.

Mary wonders how this work coordinates with 6-year CIP or parks plans. Is this in competition with other projects that have been previously established? Roxanne notes that this is a challenge; councilmembers should be policy makers; groups should advise on policy development. This is outside regular plans and should not preempt established plans. Parks is happy to take list and compare with established plan. County Council can add budget provisos to fund specific projects; sometimes proviso conflicts with other requirements based on source of funding. Council does not develop budget from ground up but approves it as developed by agencies.

PC Parks prefers working together to establish priorities; participates in FGT & AT COI for that reason. Participation in this Council may not be worthwhile; it seems to be trying to work around established procedures and not being respectful of work of staff.

Alan could recommend waiting for Tacoma to Puyallup Connection feasibility study and then recommending projects based on the findings of that study. Tacoma to Puyallup Connection is a top priority.

Ideas for presentation at April meeting: Letticia Neal will present on Canyon Road Extension in May; Shawn suggests update on Pipeline Trail from City of Tacoma; Jane will try to schedule.

Other updates:

Shawn met with PC Parks on Cushman Trail Stage 5 – many problems with Borgen Boulevard roundabouts; City of Gig Harbor & Pen Met Parks doing good work.

Terry: Gary Leaf sent email this morning about grant application through Sound Transit to build stairway to connect Fennel Creek Trail to Sound Transit Station; we will write letter of support.

Bob: Foothills newsletter article about Fennel Creek Trail was hard to understand and map was hard to read so could use update. Perhaps ask Gary Leaf to present in June. Consider having ramp at edge of stairs to roll bike up.

Bob: meeting with PC Parks next Tuesday about Yelm to Roy trail. Just got email from Larry Leveen that he is working with Roy to apply for PSRC funds to start trail.

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 pm.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:**

April 10	May 8	June 12	July 10	
August 14	Sept 11	Oct 9	Nov 13	Dec 11

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

Next meeting: Thursday 3/28/19, 2 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.

## February - March Staff Reports

### Executive Director

1. AT COI: attended COI meeting & Strategy 2 meeting; AT COI would like each member organization to have a plan for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion – our plan: work on outreach for events, better focus; conference presentation in that area; look for underserved groups/communities to reach out to; consider when making presentations. Strategy 2 – change recognition program to report card – Chris develop for review; use to present to elected officials/staff. Creating Active Transportation Champions with DOTG, Transportation Advocacy Day, Short Course on Local Planning with focus on transportation. Some funds also available to roll over from PC Trails Day/Stewardship (Strategy 2); that has been split into 2 tasks for 2019; will seek AT COI approval to roll over into Strategy 2 tasks for 2019. Continued planning for 2019 task “Training Active Transportation Champions” – working with DOTG: City of Tacoma will be official host for WA Department of Commerce Short Course on Local Planning with focus on transportation issues probably June 13.
2. Listened to webinar on Trail Signage – about consistent systems for regional trail signage; will be useful for Objective 4 work. Intertwine Alliance in Portland has good guide available on-line.
3. Step It Up: attended meeting; working on including more community members in activities; we may be able to work with community navigators to spread the word about importance of trails and increase community familiarity with ForeverGreen Trails and our work.
4. Miscellaneous Meetings: met with Fife Mayor, Community Development Director, and Parks Director – they may host PCTD event; invited to become organizational member. Also met with TPCD to discuss collaboration; Miae Aramori would like to join our board starting in April. Transportation Advocacy Day planning call – will be on May 8. Attended Friends of the Riverwalk Trail meeting and Foothills Coalition meeting in February. Met with Edison Alehouse; will be location for Trails & Ales; they may make us beneficiary of Earth Day promotion.
5. South Sound Sustainability Expo was 3/2; Jane, Alexia, Shawn, Mary, & Terry tabled; 2500 attendees; lots of good conversations.
6. Following PC Parks work on PROS Plan update (presented to County Council 3/4; also following Community Plan Updates for Fredrickson, Mid-County, Parkland-Spanaway-Midway, and South Hill – safe pedestrian and bicycle access a priority. Will comment and provide input as appropriate.
7. Usual Administrative duties: type minutes & notes; financial recordkeeping; meeting notices; email inquiries; payroll; quarterly taxes; annual taxes; attend Board & Executive Committee meetings, web site updates, etc.
8. Received updated versions of logo in several formats for both print & web use. Drafted Annual report and updated brochure.
9. Upcoming meetings: Roy to Yelm trail meeting with Bob, Buzz, Shawn, & PC Parks 3/18; King County Regional Trails Coalition 3/21; SR 167 Bike-Ped subcommittee will meet again March 25.

### Project & Communications Coordinator

1. Pierce County Trails Day – as of 3/6 have 6 confirmed events; 7 waiting on in-person meeting for more information; Foothills board to consider at next meeting; has sent many other emails with no response yet – will follow-up; WTA planning 2 events in PC that day.
2. Jane & Alexia will meet with City of Dupont about PC Trails Day & FGT in general.
3. Started donation request form to get donations for PCTD – hotels, Grand Theater, Pint Defiance, custom metal art. Give to winner of photo contest, hosts of events to give away. Also need items for raffle at Trails & Ales. Can determine how best to use donations.
4. Developing marketing plan for PCTD; compiling list of groups that need volunteer hours to target for volunteer events; college and high school groups. Developed post card and flyer to publicize event.

5. Plans to attend MetroParks Tacoma meeting 3/5 – planning for Titlow Parks including trails.