



ForeverGreen Trails

Connecting Pierce County Communities with Trails

Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters, 4702 S 19th St, Tacoma

Sustainability Committee (previously called Organizational Development)

Meeting not held.

Attending: Board members: Miae Aramori, TPCHD; Mary Dodsworth, Lakewood Parks; Alan Carter Mortimer, vice president/secretary; Bob Myrick, TWBC; Roxanne Miles, Pierce County Parks; Shawn Phelps, Pierce County Planning & Public Works; Jackson Skinner, Metro Parks Tacoma; George Walk, treasurer.

Excused: Terry Reid, Chris Beale

Staff: Jane Moore, Larry Leveen

Guests: Representative Jake Fey; Stuart Scheuerman, Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition; Brianne Blackburn, Pierce County Parks Trails Coordinator; Kelly & Alice, Pierce County Parks Interns

Vice President Alan Carter Mortimer called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

June Trail Presentation: State Transportation Budget

Representative Jake Fey, 27th District & House Transportation Committee Chair; represents most of Tacoma and Browns Point. He has been in the state legislature for 6 years; he served as vice-chair of the transportation committee until becoming chair last year. The Republican ranking member is Rep Andrew Barkis, 2nd District – Pierce and Thurston County. The Transportation Committee is unique in the state and much of the country as it is both a policy committee and a budget committee. The 2-year biennial transportation budget is about \$10 billion and includes the State Patrol, Department of Licensing, and WSDOT including the road system and the largest ferry system in the US. The committee has a big piece of work; it has 31 members, about 1/3 of all House members. The capital budget covers projects – trails, etc. Current transportation budget approval was close to unanimous. Transportation budget tends to be mostly noncontroversial; car tabs issues are divisive.

In 2015, there was a large gas tax increase (almost 12 cents) and several fees were increased to provide funding for large projects including SR 509 and SR 167, pedestrian & trail projects. \$4 million was allotted to link Ruston Way with the Foss Waterway (Schuster Parkway) – they could add funding if actionable plan were developed. Gas tax funds must be used for roads; can cover multimodal project as part of road project but not as stand-alone project. Funds from car tabs and weight fees can be used for multimodal projects. Additional revenue comes from tolling and ferry system fares. A measure was passed making tolls on I-405 and SR 167 permanent. Most new projects will need to have a toll. Unique geography of our state increases construction costs – mountains, islands.

Rep. Fey has been pushing towards a greener transportation focus. He was a proud sponsor of ST3 program in legislature. A Green Transportation bill last session included a sales tax exemption for electric vehicles; funding infrastructure for electric vehicles; extension program to convert commercial fleets to alternative fuels; a tax break for electric batteries for transit buses; sales tax exemption for used EV's; and increasing access to EV's for low-income areas.

Still need to replace Columbia River bridge, a dangerous bridge on SR 18, and a trestle in Snohomish County. He is working to outline a new transportation package and has been meeting with state transit group, biking groups, etc. Car tab Initiative before voters this November could have devastating effect on revenues especially for local jurisdictions. Another challenge is intersection of transportation needs and addressing carbon reduction. Some think carbon tax will limit ability to increase road taxes/gas tax.

Is WSDOT giving a higher priority to multimodal projects? They do have a focus on practical design – looking at alleviating problem in functional way without big engineering solution. There may be an executive decision (not legislative direction) to focus on multimodal projects.

Considerations to effect of land use on transportation; requiring WSDOT concurrency for all projects; consideration of infrastructure that will be needed to support new development. Bob suggests increasing education, so people know effects of long commutes, benefits of living close to work.

Did pass a bill increasing penalties for bicycle/pedestrian collisions (Rep Kilduff), increasing fines for HOV violations, extend Cooper Jones work – combine bicycle and pedestrian safety advisory councils.

Already have a problem with decreasing revenues as more people use electric vehicles and buy less gas. Working on road usage charge instead. Higher collection costs; problems with out-of-state drivers; is it bondable as gas tax is? Had federal funding for a pilot project; got pretty good results; may initiate for EV and hybrid users. Have considered fees on ridesharing; controversial topic brings in taxi drivers and teamsters. TNC – transportation network carriers (Lyft & Uber). Question if people might be taking more trips if don't have to drive own vehicle. Report in Seattle that consumption increased dramatically.

Open to discussion of elements of new transportation package – inclusion of trails, multimodal aspects.

Consent Agenda

George moved for approval of June minutes, June financial report, and staff reports; Shawn seconded; motion approved.

Staff Reports Brief highlights

Status of current work plan available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZJOIyEMgaSuVAirTgNvZRI9G-2Oka1Q9/view?usp=sharing>

Jane: met Trails Day event hosts – because there are 26 events, we do not have enough giveaways for everyone; working on conference planning; working to recruit sponsors & organizational members; with Terry, met with County Councilmember David Morell and had good conversation about trails. He is a supporter; we will invite him to be the County Council representative on our Advisory Board (previously was Rick Talbert).

Larry: 26 events for Trails Day is great, but it takes time to make Facebook events; will attend events and take photos; asks board members who attend events to take and share photos. He had good interest yesterday while tabling at Lakewood Farmers Market.

Pierce County Trails Day Update

The City Council of Tacoma will approve a proclamation recognizing Pierce County Trails Day on July 23; Jackson will attend to accept on behalf of the board. Terry accepted a similar proclamation from the pierce County Board of Health last week; Larry will attend the Lakewood City Council meeting next week to receive their proclamation.

Pierce County Trails Conference Planning Update

Thanks to help from Roxanne, the Pierce County Environmental Services Building at Chambers Bay has been reserved; Jane & Larry will meet with facility staff in August to plan layout and details. Craig Romano, guidebook author has been confirmed as keynote speaker; He has a new book on Urban Trails in Tacoma coming out in October.

Jane met with a representative of Ninkasi Brewing; he offered to provide kegs of beer for the event which we could sell; he would pour beer. Roxanne notes that facility allows alcohol with a special event permit but requires use of bartender from Kemper Services, the concessionaire.

Planning Committee will meet following today's board meeting.

Fund Raising Update

Jane has begun sending out emails to recruit sponsors and organizational members; she is getting good response and will be scheduling meetings in August & September. She met with the manager of the Tacoma Night Market; a monthly event attended by several thousand people. It is held on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 5 PM until 9 PM at Alma Mater, 1322 Fawcett Ave., Tacoma. Ninkasi Brewing hosts a booth for nonprofit groups. They will allow ForeverGreen Trails to use the booth on September 21. They will also provide some promotional items that we could raffle or give away.

ForeverGreen Trails will host Tacoma Green Drinks on September 5 at Odd Otter, 716 Pacific Ave., Tacoma. Ninkasi Brewing is also collaborating on this event.

Trail Updates & News

The AT COI meeting tomorrow will include a PROS Plan Update presentation by Tiffany Odell followed by discussion. The AT COI 2016 trail prioritization list was distributed before the meeting and may be reviewed. Terry, Shawn, Bob, and Larry plan to attend the meeting. The prioritization list was reviewed and discussed. Potential additions include Yelm Prairie Line Trail, Milton-Edgewood-Pacific Interurban connection, Sumner Interurban connection, and the Flume Trail (Lake Tapps to Buckley). There are some concerns with keeping Schuster Parkway trail as top priority; the City of Tacoma is not actively working on this project; there are many complications with slope stabilization and use of railroad property.

Roxanne explained prioritization of trails. There are three levels. First: The Regional Trails Plan is aspirational and includes any and all potential trails (lines on a map). Second: The PROS Plan will set priorities for the years from 2020 to 2030; this should include considerations such as per capita access to parks and trails in each quadrant of the county. Currently, the northeast area where the Flume Trail would be located contains about 50% of the current county trail system. Third: The 6-Year CFP contains projects that are generally ready to finalize design and build. Many of these have grant funding available. The current CFP includes the Pipeline Trail and the Parkland Urban Core Trail Network. The Parkland area currently has low per capita access to trails.

Larry suggested that we need to consider what factors are important in prioritization, particularly equity and social justice. Alan noted that this may be a topic for further, in-depth, discussion. Currently, we should probably focus on our input for the PROS Plan update.

Alan adjourned the meeting at 1:38 PM.

Trails Conference Planning Committee Meeting

Mary Dodsworth, Larry Leveen, Jane Moore, Alan Carter Mortimer, George Walk

Mary will serve as emcee again.

Mary has confirmed panelists from Puyallup, Olympia, and Metro Parks Tacoma; she will give each panelist a different but connected topic related to park ranger programs, park safety and homeless populations; panel will be titled "Safe, Clean, and Green".

Youth panel will be titled "Engaging Youth Outdoors". Alan has commitments from the Washington Trails Association Outdoor Leadership Training Program staff; they are planning to expand, adding a Tacoma Outdoor Leadership Program; Northwest Youth Corp Tacoma region staff will also participate. For a third panelist, he possibly has someone from Latino Outdoors. Other suggestions are Alchemy Skateboard – Taylor Woodruff or 2nd Cycle – Noah Struthers. Alan will give panelists some direction for talks such as creating new stewards or best practices to overcome obstacles.

A possible third panel could be on NIMBY-ism and PR/outreach/communication. Larry contacted Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance director Yvonne Kraus who was willing to participate. He also thought of contacting the Pierce County Realtor Association for input on property values with parks/trails.

To have a third panel, we would need to do breakout sessions with 2 panels offered at same time; there is another conference room at ESC that we might be able to use. Alternatively, we could have an area with a rolling presentation that could be viewed during breaks; presentation would have information on resources, best practices, etc. We could have a display table with information this year and gauge interest for a panel in the future. The display could focus on information "Why We're Wrong". Larry will work on developing this idea.

We will try to use the foyer/entrance area for displays/vendors. Jane & Larry will discuss this when they meet with staff to plan room layout.

Alcohol is allowed but requires a special event permit. Alcohol must be served by Kemper bartender so it's likely to be expensive. Serving beer may be more complicated than beneficial.

Conference title will be Sustainability & Stewardship". The draft program previously distributed looks good. We do not want to extend beyond 8 PM because people get tired by then. If we put keynote speaker before dinner, people might leave before the second panel.

Jane will draft a conference budget and get catering estimates. Alan suggest that we use the same caterer and food as last year to keep things simple. It was good with options for various dietary requirements.

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.

May Staff Reports

Executive Director Report – Jane Moore

- a. AT COI – June meeting: agreed on 2020 budget – funds for communications & equity work by AT COI; July will have PROS Plan update and discussion advocacy topics
- b. Step It Up – June meeting – Tacoma Green Schoolyards Plan – Safe Routes to Parks; July will work on Goal 5 Trails & Infrastructure – provided materials for background information
- c. Meetings:
 - i. T2P Trail Connection Route Analysis Stakeholder Advisory group meeting
 - ii. T2P Regional Trail Route Analysis Community Forum – great attendance
 - iii. SR 167 Stage 1b Stakeholder Group – reviewed bike/ped plans
 - iv. Swan Creek Master Plan final draft meeting. Includes plans for trails.
 - v. Met with director Tacoma Night Market and Colin Corpe from Ninkasi Brewing – possible nonprofit booth at market in September about 3 weeks before trails conference. He will also check on using Odd Otter for Green Drinks. He also offered to bring keg beer to trails conference for us to sell. We would need single use permit and permission from Pierce County. Jane will check with Pierce County. He could also co-host happy hours at various locations with us. We will investigate this.
- d. Events
 - i. Walk Buckley – 4th Wednesday June, July, August
 - ii. Pipeline Trail – City of Tacoma ribbon cutting – June 8; led walk. Nice ceremony with short trail.
 - iii. Short Course on Local Planning – Transportation – June 13 cancelled; will reschedule in fall; probably September 26.
- e. WSDOT Active Transportation Plan – www.bit.ly/WSDOT-2019-ATP.
- f. PC Parks - PROS Update due 3/1/2020; draft on-line for comment soon; County Council presentation in August; Jane & Larry will follow.
- g. Community Plan updates: Fredrickson, Mid-County, Parkland-Spanaway-Midway, South Hill - Website: www.piercecountywa.gov/cpupdate; updates supportive of trails & active transportation; Planning Commission hearings July & August <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/5944/Planning-Commission>; then to council for hearings, discussion, & adoption fall/winter. Jane will follow process.
- h. Key-Pen Parks plan update – underway; will follow process.
- i. Events for PC Trails Day – 27 events scheduled; confirmed event details with hosts; designed & revised poster; scheduled time to meet hosts with materials; ordered posters & brochures from printer https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EYFhvqtdnfy6QI0Zb0P3I9rDaeYnoz3wNkgqLGe26_U/edit?usp=sharing

Project & Communications Coordinator Report – Larry Leveen

- a. Social media posts
- b. Website editing & updating
- c. Pipeline Trail ribbon cutting & social media posts
- d. Website blog
- e. Attended Roy City Council meeting for Yelm Prairie Line Trail (YPLT)
- f. Promote Tacoma to Puyallup Connection meeting; talk with marketing volunteer
- g. Attended Board meeting
- h. Create & deliver YPLT Grant presentation for PSRC
- i. Write YPLT National Park Service grant application
- j. Met with Attorney's Title re: pro-bono work
- k. PCTD poster
- l. PC Trails Conference poster/save-the-date card