

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting # 57, January 10, 2013, Fautleroy Church

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Steev Ward, Chris Nack, Steve Bomkamp, Dennis Hinton, Craig Pedersen.

Fautleroy Park steward: Peggy Cummings

Fautleroy Community Association & Fautleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch

Guest: Kristine Cramer, King County water quality planner/program manager

Facilitator: Dennis Hinton

Scribe: Peggy Cummings

NOTES

1. Introductions, roster updating

2. Minutes

Approved as published.

3. Treasurer's report

Dennis Hinton reported an ending balance for 2012 of \$1,741.96.

4. In the media

Dennis reported no activity specific to Council activities. Several orca sightings have been noted on the *West Seattle Blog*.

5. Presentation: Rain Gardens in the Barton Basin

Kristine Cramer shared the following information about a major enhancement to the RainWise program:

King County and Seattle Public Utilities are collaborating on this program to assist homeowners in capturing stormwater before it enters the storm-drain system. The program is poised to extend its purchase and installation support to residents of the

Barton basin for rain gardens and cisterns, and Fauntleroy will be the first eligible neighborhood.

Depending on the size of property, soils, and slope, the program will work with the homeowner to design and install a rain garden funded up to a specified dollar amount by King County. If a property is not suitable for a rain garden, the program will assist the homeowner in selecting and installing a cistern to capture roof runoff for later release. It will be available for online application after March 1. Details are at www.rainwise.seattle.gov.

Action item: Kristine took numerous questions and will provide answers for Judy to distribute.

Kristine also provided an update on the Barton basin combined-sewer overflow (CSO) project up the hill. Bioswale designs are almost complete for 80 homes on 19 streets. Door-to-door outreach continues to try to interest more homeowners. Construction will begin later this year, with detail work to continue into 2015.

Murray basin CSO planning is in the final design phase. Houses across from Lowman Beach will be removed once permits are issued and construction on underground tanks and related components should begin in fall 2013 and take about two years to complete.

6. Agency news

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch reported the following:

The utility is undergoing a reorganization in response to budget cuts and key retirements, with a goal of improving internal coordination. The emphasis is on creating teams that will enhance program coordination and collaboration. Strategic planning for the drainage/wastewater division will focus on four areas: planning policy and regulation, technical services, capital projects, and program development for source control. She expects the utility's education programs and commitment to habitats, water quality, and natural drainage to continue.

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker was ill but sent her report to Judy. Water at two Fauntleroy Park entrances continues to be a concern - the seep in the Barton alley and runoff onto the Cambridge Street trailhead. Carol will have more about both at our March meeting. A small discussion surfaced a couple of questions related to Lincoln Park.

Action item: Peggy will ask Carol to speak to questions about Lincoln Park at our next meeting.

7. Special Projects

Kilbourne ravine: Judy reported that our grant application is on next week's agenda for a decision by the King Conservation District's board of supervisors. Approval is expected, with official startup of the project to follow. (Note: It was approved for funding.)

Storm-drain markers: A member of the Fauntleroy Community Association (FCA) board expressed concern in having "Puget Sound Starts Here" markers on storm drains in the watershed, so Judy asked Kathy to provide information, as follows:

Seattle Public Utilities coordinates the project citywide as part of the Puget Sound Partnership's "Puget Sound Starts Here" public-awareness campaign. According to project coordinator Bill Malatinsky, this watershed has 60 storm drains. The markers require a special adhesive and must be installed in reasonably warm and dry conditions (May is the target month). Bill would lead an installation party and estimated that, with six volunteers, the job could be done here in about three hours, at no cost. Kathy shared survey information documenting a high probability that the markers would increase public awareness of how individual actions can affect water quality.

Action item: Judy will relay this information to the FCA board for follow-up on this project idea.

Action item: Kathy will forward a crisp version of the "Puget Sound Starts Here" logo to Judy, who will add it to our maps on the Barton and 97th kiosks at Fauntleroy Park. Chris Nack will make large copies for Peggy to post.

2012 annual report: Judy noted that she about to start work on our 2012 annual report.

Action item: Kathy, Carol, Dennis, and Peggy will review Judy's draft of the annual report and Peggy will forward photos.

Action item: Judy will make sure that our Salmon in the Schools teachers are on the distribution list.

8. Upper-watershed projects/news

Forest steward Peggy reported the following activities:

Fellow steward Steve Hodson received 100 trees and shrubs From the Green Seattle

Partnership. With help from daughter Georgia and volunteer Wolfe Scharf, Steve got them planted in Fauntleroy Park during October and November.

Also in the fall, Steve met Melissa Lui, a University of Washington student working on a project for a restoration ecology course, and gave her a tour of the park, with an emphasis on ongoing restoration and the results of reforestation.

Peggy secured several "good dog/green dog" signs and placed in the park.

Action item: Phil took a sign for Fenton Glen and will install it there on behalf of the church's facilities ministry.

Projects in the park for 2013 will continue to focus on completion of the Barton alley drainage project and protection the Cambridge Street park entrance and trail from erosion caused by street runoff. The latter will entail rerouting flow and rebuilding the trailhead.

EarthCorps is still developing its 2013 schedule, so dates for community work parties in the park (through the Green Seattle Partnership) are not yet on the calendar. Peggy will be coordinating with Dylan Mendenhal for proposed "jamboree" projects for West Seattle parks, plus small work parties in specific areas aimed at involving park neighbors.

Peggy recommended that the Council participate with other environmental groups in the West Seattle summer street fair and not have a formal presence at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, which has proved not a very effective venue for community outreach.

Action item: Peggy will stay tuned to planning for the street fair and enroll us for a booth in the environmental section.

Peggy will be giving a presentation on park stewardship, invasive plants, and native-plant gardening at the West Seattle Nursery in March.

Fenton Glen project:

Judy provided the following report:

The big rainstorm in November nearly caused flooding in the area near the culvert grate; fortunately, Phil got there in time to clear it of debris and dirt. Judy, Kathy, and Bob Keller (project manager with Natural Systems Design) had a walkaround in the

lower glen and concluded that more revegetation needed to be done to prevent similar incidents. According to Bob, creek structures are in good shape, with no damage from rains. Pools are filling and new pools are forming – exactly what should be happening for instream diversity and habitat. The main problem in former flood plain is shade; previous planting there had mixed survival. The area needs more shade-tolerant vegetation that also serves to block foot traffic. The brush that Steve Hodson put near the channel for this purpose needs to be pulled back so that high flow doesn't pick it up. Judy has ordered saplings from the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust and has reserved Feb. 10 for church-sponsored parent/child planting event.

Action item: Peggy will help mark plant locations in advance of the work party.

Action item: Dennis Hinton will find another way to access the smolt trap that doesn't involve walking through the former flood plain.

Action item: Judy will ask Steve to pull back as much of the brush pile as possible.

9. Lower-watershed projects/news

Spawner report: Steev Ward reported that the final number of spawners was 274, which includes five seen after our November meeting. He will be monitoring for emergence of fry in late February/early March. Judy noted that nearly 300 people came to see the spawners - great for outreach.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that the Salmon Education Alliance (SEA) provided eggs in December/early January for 145 participating schools in Seattle/King County. Here, he and Judy (with help from Jack Lawless) delivered 3000 eggs from the state's Soos Creek Hatchery to 12 schools scheduled to release in Fautleroy Creek, plus 500 that Jack will rear for groups not bringing their own fry to release. Phil and Judy's stops included a Q&A session with students at every school.

Judy announced that Roxhill Elementary is taking the year off. Difficulties over the past two years with the teacher in charge of the project prompted the principal to concur with this decision. Another teacher at the school is eager to pick up the project next year.

Phil and Judy were instrumental in SEA's providing every school with a CD featuring detailed information about tank monitoring and maintenance, a teacher handbook, and lesson plans. One teacher responded that SEA was doing a much better job with the program than the state ever did! Phil said he was spending a lot of with equipment concerns as schools discover they have a problem. Both have led two workshops for

teachers and tank volunteers, with a third scheduled for late January.

Phil is working with a group of eight advanced students at West Seattle Elementary to develop interest and skills in the science of water and will be engaging them in a small study to compare two types of water-testing products.

10. Upcoming events/good of the order

No upcoming events to report.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 14, @ Fautleroy Church