

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #59, May 9, 2013, Fauntleroy Church**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Steev Ward, Steve Bomkamp, Jane Tobin, Peggy Cummings

Fauntleroy Community Association & Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland.

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch.

Special Guest: Jana Dilley, reLeaf Program manager, SPU

Facilitator: Dennis Hinton

Scribe: Peggy Cummings

**NOTES**

**1. Introductions, roster updating**

**2. Minutes**

Approved as published.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis Hinton reported a balance of \$1,742.99.

**4. In the media**

Dennis anticipated that we would be back in the news when the *West Seattle Blog* covered upcoming salmon releases in the creek.

**5. Presentation**

Jana Dilley, reLeaf program manager with SPU, said that reLeaf is an interagency activity, in collaboration with Forterra, to improve Seattle's urban forest by creating a culture of planting trees. It includes Tree Ambassadors and Trees for Neighborhoods, which gives residents up to four free trees per household (a total of 1,000 this year). Online applications ([www.sea.gov/trees](http://www.sea.gov/trees)) for fall distribution will open August 1. Recipients must attend a workshop to learn about planting, pruning, and maintenance. Trees come with water bags and, for street trees, assistance with permitting. To get on the list to be notified when applications open, email [jana.dilley@seattle.gov](mailto:jana.dilley@seattle.gov).

***Action item: Judy Pickens will include an article about the program in the June issue of Neighbors, the Fauntleroy community newsletter.***

Jana also talked about *Seattle's Forest Ecosystem Values: Analysis of Structure, Function, and Economic Benefits*, a recent report prepared using a model developed by the U.S. Forest Service. It contains a wealth of data based on surveys of the existing canopy and variables in the ecosystem that are impacted by a healthy urban forest. More information is available at: [www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/gcra](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/gcra) or by emailing Lisa Cieko ([lcieko@forterra.com](mailto:lcieko@forterra.com)) at Forterra, a co-author of the report.

## **6. Agency News**

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch reported the following:

- The city is soliciting input as it updates the Stormwater Code, which applies mostly to businesses and developers. It does, however, include a section about catch basins in parking lots to trap oil residue, which might be of interest in our watershed.

Phil Sweetland raised a question about the catch basin in the church parking lot, saying it appears to be designed to overflow at the top during heavy rain, sending oil and other vehicular fluids into the storm drain. He suggested that the Fauntleroy schoolhouse likely had the same design in its parking lot.

***Action item: Kathy will follow up with Phil to understand basin design and what options the church (and maybe schoolhouse) have to better manage overflows.***

- SPU is promoting attendance at a Seattle Mariner's game to showcase the Puget Sound Starts Here public-information campaign. The event will include a mass "Dog Diggity" dance about cleaning up after dogs.

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker reported the following:

- The public-comment phase of developing the Seattle Parks Legacy Plan is under way. She distributed a spreadsheet highlighting the process, including goals and implementation strategies that keep the emphasis on healthy people, healthy environment, financial stability, and strong communities. After release of the draft in April, Seattle Parks is hosting a series of public meetings, including one at Dakota Place just across the freeway from West Seattle. In June, an updated draft will be released to reflect the recommendations proposed by the public. The final plan is to be presented to City Council in December. Comments are welcome at [parkslegacy@seattle.gov](mailto:parkslegacy@seattle.gov) and more information is at [www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/legacy).
- Thanks for a quick response to Carol and crew for gravel placed at the salmon release bridge in Fauntleroy Park to reduce the mud.

## **7. Kilbourne Ravine Project**

Judy and Peggy reported the following:

- The proposed start date is June 10 and Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering will host a kick-off meeting for involved property owners and agency representatives on June 6.
- The owner of the large apartment building has been located and is going to support the program. The owners of two rental houses have been unresponsive. A draft of the permission letter for property owners is due soon.
- We have applied for the street use permit to work in the undeveloped right-of-way in the ravine and EarthCorps has applied for the herbicide permit.
- EarthCorps' proposed contract includes a requirement for the project sponsor to have liability insurance. Kathy advised checking with Martha Neuman at SPU if this requirement remains in place.

- We have asked Rory Denovan to detail how Seattle Parks will meet its commitment to restore the Kilbourne Park portion of the ravine, especially the need to keep pressure on wild clematis for up to six 5-6 years.
- More outreach is pending resolution of outstanding contract and permitting issues.

### **8. Upper-watershed projects/news**

Forest steward report: Peggy reported that Steve Hodson and another volunteer worked 45 hours in Fauntleroy Park in April, doing 1,000 feet of trail maintenance, plus invasive removal, primarily in area 10. The schedule for EarthCorps work parties is pending. Per earlier discussions, we will not be participating in the Junction West Seattle summer festival. Since our Kilbourne project will be under way, we will set up an information booth at the Fall Festival in view of the work being done in the ravine. Fauntleroy Park continues to look good, with evidence of positive community care and stewardship.

Salmon releases: Judy and Dennis reported eight releases with about 200 kids so far. Releases will continue through May 22 and will include a group of South Koreans who will be visiting the church. As in past years, Jack Lawless is providing fry so all schools will have some to release.

### **9. Lower-watershed projects/news**

Out-migration study: Steev Ward and Dennis reported the following:

So far, volunteers have documented 62 smolts in the upper trap and 63 in the lower trap, with lots of home-hatch fry landing in the lower trap. They will be checking above the upper trap for any blockage that might be impeding smolts from leaving the park.

***Action item: Peggy will place caution tape and a "Salmon in the Schools Research Area" near the upper trap, in Fenton Glen, to deter foot traffic and any repeat of apparent vandalism.***

Outfall pipe in cove: Judy reported receiving a mailing from SPU about proposed cleaning of the stormwater outfall pipe that discharges into Fauntleroy Cove at the Brace Point streetend. Flushing of rock and vegetative debris was scheduled for the height of the algae bloom. She engaged the support of Dave Haggarty (FCA president) and Tim Nelson (algae researcher at Seattle Pacific University) to inform SPU of the algae problem. The upshot was a win-win decision to schedule the cleaning in September, which still allows time for cleaning and repair before winter weather sets in.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that SPU found warehouse space for for storing tanks, chillers, and other equipment. Locally, eight West Seattle Elementary students in two classes are finalizing presentations about their water-quality testing and how chemistry affected fish mortality. Because they were unable to come to us, we are invited to their classrooms on Thursday, May 23, 1:30 and 2:00 pm, to hear their reports and support their research.

### **10. Upcoming events/good of the order**

Oct. 20: Fauntleroy Fall Festival

Oct. 27: Salmon Drumming

**Next Meeting:** 7 pm Thursday, September 12 @ Fauntleroy Church