

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #82, November 9, 2017, Fauntleroy Church

### **ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Elizabeth Butler, Steev Ward, Kersti Muul, Chris Nack, Chris Kim

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Guests: Cluny McCaffrey and Elizabeth's parents

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$1,052.61, including a \$20.00 donation, in our Washington Federal checking account.

### **4. In the media**

Dennis noted the *West Seattle Blog* ran stories on the salmon drumming and the first spawner.

### **5. Seattle Parks update** - Carol reported the following:

- The department's biennial budget is quite yet finalized. A "budget neutral" reorganization is in process, which will include how to fund work dealing with homeless encampments in the parks (not previously funded).
- Parks has a new volunteer Park Inspection Program. Volunteers will receive training to accompany park personnel to survey many facets of major parks in order to identify problems and maintain resources in a safe and inviting manner. Carol has some of these inspections scheduled. A notice about it appeared on the *West Seattle Blog*.

### **6. Briefing/brainstorming** - Cluny McCaffrey, executive director, Environmental Coalition of South Seattle and Washington STEM

Cluny shared the mission of ECOSS and the various programs that the nonprofit has been involved in since 1994 in the South Park and Duwamish industrial areas. They include working with industry to improve environmental impacts and educating the community about healthy lifestyles. ECOSS emphasizes reaching immigrant and non-English speaking communities about environmental stewardship. Evident during discussion was how its outreach to various volunteer organizations, local industry, and underserved communities are values we share. For more information about ECOSS and its programs, visit [www.ecoss.org](http://www.ecoss.org).

### **7. Special Projects**

Street runoff into Fauntleroy Park: Judy reported on concerns recently raised about street runoff at Cambridge Street and Forest Court entrances. She noted that the change in rainfall patterns has substantially increased creek flow and, subsequently, the volume of street runoff into the creek and park. Concerns include increased sediment, which Seattle Public Utilities is monitoring as part of its culvert-replacement project. Also, Jonathan Frodge is continuing his conductivity study of the creek, which currently is indicating relatively clean water. Kersti mentioned that water quality testing is also being done in Longfellow Creek.

**Action item:** *Carol will look at both again and confer with SPU about any action needed.*

Peggy reported checking the berm at Forest Court, which is holding back run off and diverting some water away from the trail and into the soil. She also noted that improvements on Cambridge and 97th made by the Seattle Department of Transportation and SPU seem to be diverting the water as planned. More water-management work is needed, which Carol duly noted; Steve offered to give a hand by helping place rock for more diversion.

For the whales: Kersti noted the recent study report suggesting that our resident orcas could be extinct within a hundred years. She said that a number of organizations, including The Whale Trail, are doing educational workshops, which is a starting point. Boat traffic of all types continues to be an important issue; studies have shown that, given their use of echo location when feeding, boat noise can disturb orca foraging for up to 5 hours. Fishing regulations also need to be addressed to insure enough salmon, preferably Chinook, but chum and coho are also important resources.

During discussion, ideas for outreach included an orca stamp (like a duck stamp) to raise awareness and funds for outreach and conservation. Also, a "Salmon Safe" certification for businesses that exhibit concern about clean water and resource use. We might explore partnerships with the Puget Sound Environmental Council and other local organizations. No specific actions were proposed.

Grant application: Judy reported that, despite being encouraged by district staff to apply, all funding in the latest round of King Conservation District grants went to organizations squarely focused on underserved populations. She suggested we revisit stewardship needs in the lower creek if/when more applicable funding becomes available. She noted that the open-space parcel adjacent to the fish ladder is still on the Green Seattle Partnership's upcoming list of projects.

Salmon in the Schools/research: Phil and Judy reported getting 11 coho spawner carcasses from Soos Creek, now in Peggy's freezer for Steev's in-class dissection program. Only three schools in the city have Chinook eggs; the rest will get coho eggs in January. A total of 25 teachers and two tank volunteers attended the SIS-Seattle workshop in October. For 2018, Genesee Hill Elementary decided to take a break but Chief Sealth International High School wanted it at the last minute and will borrow Genesee's equipment.

The annual benthic study in October netted no data. The sixth-grade class from Our Lady of Guadalupe was large (26 kids) and had not been adequately briefed on the study or streamside behavior.

Outreach activities: Judy that the fall festival on a beautiful October day drew about 2,000 people, including the 176 youngsters who decorated salmon hats at our booth.

Iffy weather and a football game kept attendance at our annual salmon drumming to about 15 people. Attendees wrote messages to spawners on ribbons that were hung for many days on the railing at the fish-ladder viewpoint.

In response to Elizabeth's question last meeting about council outreach, Judy called our attention to the summary on the back of the agenda of what have become regular outreach actions.

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

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- Concerns about the wire mesh on boardwalks in Fauntleroy park continue as it is becoming hazardous. It's now on Carol's list for repair or replacement. In the meantime, park users will need to be aware and attentive.
- An apparently unskilled individual cut trees in a small section of park bordering 97th SW.
- After 2 1/2 years, Jesus Aguirre has resigned his position as superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation.
- GSP's appreciation event for forest stewards is scheduled for Nov. 18; 17 forest stewards who have volunteered since 2006/2007/2008 will be honored.

Kilbourne restoration: Judy reported that EarthCorps crews were scheduled for multiple days of work in late September and October, plus another session focused on planting in December. The project is on target and on budget.

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

Salmon watch: Dennis reported that, between Oct. 14 and Nov. 19, volunteers observed four spawners. Mark Ahlness saw the first one on Oct. 27 and the last one was seen on Nov. 2.

***Action item: Dennis will see that our table of fry, smolts, and spawners gets updated.***

Reach to the beach: Elizabeth proposed that we adopt a "good neighbor" policy regarding trespass on private property. Dennis apologized for his misunderstanding about access to her property, where another volunteer cut back reed canary grass out of concern that it would impair spawner access. He explained that he and others recalled that she had given permission last year, realizing too late that she had not. During discussion, Phil challenged the need for a policy that would apply to one property only. Peggy noted that the council has been a good neighbor for 17 years, supporting numerous environmental- and community-improvement projects, and that appropriate outreach has been a part of every activity. She advised that we be sure the minutes reflect Elizabeth's concern and that the executive committee review activities and protocols for further discussion during our January meeting.

### **10. Good of the order/upcoming event**

**Streamside Gardening**, a King Conservation District program @ West Seattle Nursery; Wednesday Nov. 15, 5 - 7 pm

**Next meeting**: **Thursday Jan. 11, 7 pm @ Fautleroy Church**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**MEETING #81, September 14, 2017, FAUNTLEROY CHURCH**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Elizabeth Butler, Steev Ward, Pete Draughon, Kersti Muul

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

**1. Introductions**

**2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$1,039.52 in our Washington Federal checking account.

**4. In the media**

Dennis had nothing new to report.

**5. Seattle Parks update**

Carol reported the following:

- The proposed 2018 budget includes capitol funding of \$100,000 for facilities and also \$3.3 million over three years for capital improvements in the city's 10 Olmstead parks, Lincoln and Schmitz being among them. Further budget details are not available yet.
- Off-leash rules have been finalized. They include new wording about professional dog walkers, including the number of dogs permitted and requirements for environmental training and permitting.
- Parks' employees are still helping clean up homeless encampments.
- Regarding soft-surface trail planning, Chukundi Salisbury has posted a notice about a public meeting on the topic for Dec. 13 at a location to be determined.

Regarding trees, Peggy raised concern about the large maple tree at the Barton Street entrance, which obscures the kiosk for Fauntleroy Park. Phil raises concern about a tree in the open space adjacent to the fish ladder that could pose a hazard to adjacent homes.

***Action item: Carol will request inspection of both trees and follow through with recommended action.***

Kersti asked about the tree removal at Lincoln Park and the possibility of root rot spreading from the downed logs and the wood chips used as cover and mulch. Carol said that the arborists involved are aware of the potential and use the best information available to avoid spreading native root rots.

**6. Special report - Puget Sound Orcas**

Kersti has been monitoring the resident J pod in our waters, working with the SR3 group and NOAA, which as been using drones for video telemetry. Pod members disappeared for about 50 days, possibly searching for food. Eight residents have died this year, apparently from lack of food, including a one-year-old after its mom died; he was too young to survive without her. Another juvenile is emaciated and may not survive. Only 76 remain in the J pod, which is now on the brink of extinction.

The transient orcas have returned to the Sound in increased numbers, which has increased the number of boaters harassing them. Orca Relief has contacted Kersti about boating violations, which she has forwarded to NOAA with no response. State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has not been responsive either.

Part of the issue for response is by the time activities are reported, boaters have left the area. Noise and motion from boaters increases the stress on orcas already stressed from lack of food and the release of toxins from their blubber - a lethal combination.

Discussion ensued about what can be done to educate boaters about the regulations (in simple terms since they are technically confusing) and the negative effects of boating behavior on the fragile orca population. Ideas included signage at boat launches, education, and licensing of boat owners. Jet skies and even kayaks also have an impact.

***Action item: We will weigh public-awareness actions we might take, possibly as a subcommittee of the council.***

## **7. Special Projects**

Stance on salmon farming in the Salish Sea: Judy reported that, following the pen failure and escape of thousands of Atlantic salmon from a fish farm in the San Juan Islands, the executive committee decided to submit comments, including to the governor, the head of State Natural Resources, and a state task force updating fish-farm policies. The point made: Such farms should not be allowed in public waters.

Grant applications: Judy reported that, after reviewing our preliminary application, King County did not invite us to submit a full proposal for a comprehensive watershed assessment. We may submit the same proposal a year from now to our councilmember's office for direct-funding consideration. The King Conservation District grant proposal will be decided next month. Elizabeth suggested we add this topic to the meeting with City Councilmember Lisa Herbold that has been contemplated for some time, plus request support from City Councilmember Lorena Gonzales.

Culvert update: Phil reported that Seattle Public Utilities is moving forward with creek-culvert projects at 45th Ave. SW and California Ave. SW and has engaged the church in discussions about the culvert under the church parking lot. A WDFW biologist gave the opinion that fish should have passage to the upper creek (Fauntleroy Park). Many questions remain to be answered about these long-term projects.

Salmon in the Schools/education: Phil and Judy reported the following:

- 70 schools in Seattle are permitted this year, including 13 in West Seattle. A workshop for teachers and tank volunteers will be Oct. 21. Concord is no longer in the Fauntleroy program, Highland Park is added, and Arbor Heights is undecided. Highland Park is getting equipment from the city and Phil is on the lookout for a suitable stand for the aquarium. The SIS website directs teachers outside the city to a special county website that Phil created.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe has a new science teacher with a background that includes fish-and-wildlife work and experience with the salmon program and benthic testing. Judy has suggested the possibility of his adding lichen monitoring as a research project.
- We have a permit for carcasses from the Soos Creek Hatchery for Steev Ward's dissection program and Peggy has volunteered her freezer to store them.

Dogs in parks: Peggy reported that the city has finalized its long-awaited People, Dogs and Parks Plan (available on the Seattle Parks website). Points that apply to Fauntleroy, Kilbourne, and Lincoln parks are (1) no unfenced off-leash areas; (2) no leash-optional trails; (3) the option for communities to request new off-leash areas; and (4) no off-leash beach access while options are considered.

Fauntleroy Fall Festival/salmon drumming: Judy noted that the fall festival will be Oct. 15 and she is soliciting helpers to make salmon hats with young children. The drumming will be the following Sunday at 5 pm at the fish-ladder viewpoint, weather permitting.

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

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- Regarding the ongoing wildlife study in our parks by Prof. Mark Jorden from Seattle University ("Wildlife Responses to Urban Land Use"), Michael Yadrick published an excellent interview with him on the Green Seattle Partnership's website.
- An alert went out to forest stewards about rabid bats having been found at Greenlake, with 21 incidents reported in Seattle (none in West Seattle). Park visitors should be aware.
- The yellow archangel treatment adjacent the Forest Court trail looks successful. A couple of new spots on the trail should be easily contained next year.
- Quite a bit of drought-related dieback of shrubs has occurred in parts of the park and in newly planted areas. Creek tributaries have maintained good flow over the summer.
- A big concern, particularly with Salmon in the Schools groups, is the large overhanging maple tree at the Barton Street entrance, which is obscuring the view of the kiosk and the park entrance from the street. (See earlier action item.)

Kilbourne restoration: Judy reported that EarthCorps has scheduled work in late September and again in December for planting.

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

Peggy reported having contacted Michael Yadrick about when the Green Seattle Partnership might move forward with invasive removal and replanting as discussed on the open-space parcel adjacent to the fish ladder. He had thought work might begin this past summer. No response yet.

## **10: Good of the order/upcoming events**

- Recycle Roundup Sunday Sept. 24, 9 am-3 pm the church parking lot
- Fautleroy Fall Festival Sunday Oct. 15, 2-5 pm in the church/YMCA/schoolhouse triangle
- Salmon drumming Sunday Oct. 22, 5 pm at the fish-ladder viewpoint

**Next meeting: Thursday November 9, 7pm @ Fautleroy Church**

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## MEETING #80, May 11, 2017, FAUNTLEROY CHURCH

### **ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Chris Nack, Peggy Cummings, Elizabeth Butler, Steev Ward, Pete Draughon, Kersti Muul

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

### **1. Introductions**

### **2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$1039.16 in our Washington Federal checking account.

### **4. In the media**

Dennis noted the story on the West Seattle Blog covering the second salmon release with a story and photos.

### **5. Seattle Parks update**

Carol Baker reported the following:

- Parks personnel were diverted to help with the emergency pot-hole brigade.
- The lawn was recently mowed at the Barton Street entrance to Fauntleroy Park and trails are in good condition for salmon releases.
- The bird treaty signing ceremony was at Lincoln Park, which currently has nesting barred owls and ravens.

### **6. Special projects**

Trails focus group: Peggy reported that Parks trails coordinator Chukundi Salisbury has put this pilot project on hold for now.

Salmon dissections: Steev reported that he has done four classroom dissections so far, made easier by having the innards still somewhat frozen. The kids have been really great, interested from a scientific point of view, and teachers have been helpful. He described it as like a cooking school, only they don't eat at the end.

Salmon releases: Judy noted that we're halfway through the releases, with a good number of supplemental adult volunteers, which has been very helpful for schools that can't bring enough chaperones. Having them has reduced the size of the exploration teams, so kids are learning more in smaller groups. The EarthCorps crew working in the Kilbourne ravine came to the park twice for releases and met with the kids (4th graders from Genesee Hill and 6th graders from Guadalupe). Crewmembers also went to Judy's for Guadalupe's exoskeleton count. May 31 will be the last release! We're getting good photos of the kids, including Taproot School's parade of fish socks.

Out-migration monitoring: Dennis reported that our two smolt traps have filled up a few times after heavy rain but, so far, the debris hasn't killed fish. He and Pete have tallied 31 smolts to date.

Guadalupe drainage project: Judy reported that the city will be providing a free electronic map so the Guadalupe sixth graders can update their drainage reports. We will also receive a copy of the map and get the link so we can post the reports on our website.

Culvert replacement: Phil reported that Seattle Public Utilities now has both the 45th Ave. SW and California Ave. SW culverts in its replacement project and is in conversation with the church about its culvert under the main parking lot. State Fish and Wildlife will be involved in terms of fish pass-ability. SPU's videotape of the church culvert revealed what may be a trout fry, given that the taping was done before salmon releases started. Elizabeth brought up a new test that uses DNA to determine species present in water.

**Action item: Judy will check with Fish and Wildlife about both fry and E-DNA testing.**

### **7. Lower-creek projects/news**

Elizabeth and Judy reported what they've been doing regarding grant applications and provided a summary of our draft application to the King Conservation District. Natural Systems Design and EarthCorps helped define the scope of work and estimate costs for the letter of intent due June 1. The project would replace weirs above the fish ladder and in the reach to the beach in response to increased flows associated with climate change. The proposal needs to meet diversity requirements and we may be able to tie in the Green Seattle Partnership's work on the open space adjacent to the fish ladder. If invited, we'll submit a more detailed proposal, with funding decisions to be made in the fall.

They've also been working toward a county WaterWorks grant for serious planning associated with the challenges of stormwater and climate change. If not successful in the general round, our proposal could bounce to our councilmember's office for funding. They invited Joe McDermott to a salmon release and follow-up conversation (on the calendar for May 23) to acquaint him with the creek and relevant issues.

As a side note, Kersti noted that eel grass beds along Alki and Lincoln Park beaches are teeming with herring eggs to an extent not seen previously.

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

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- She is in conversation with Carol about repairing the mesh at the big bridge to improve safety during salmon releases.
- She has mailed information to the new owners of the Hamlin property about the Kilbourne restoration project. They need to provide signed permission for EarthCorps to work on their property.
- She met with the home owner on Forest Court about the yellow archangel infestation on her property as well as in the park. She had worked with Steve Richmond previously and agreed to have him do removal on her property when he has the contract to work on park property.
- The dogs-in-parks project is still not finalized. It was originally to go to the Parks Board first quarter 2017; when it will go to City Council is to be determined.
- She noted that Kersti Muul attended the ceremony in Lincoln Park at which Seattle signed the Urban Bird Treaty. Kersti is leading monthly surveys in Lincoln as part of Seattle Audubon's neighborhood bird project.

Kilbourne restoration: Judy reported that EarthCorps has scheduled four days of work in May, with projections for more work in August and planting in December. The crew will be using a pellet form of herbicide that will not require closing the Children's Center playground. The six-year project is on target budget-wise.

Judy noted that she and Phil had participated in an EarthCorps focus group to help map a new five-year plan, providing perspective from a "customer's" point of view.

**Next meeting:** Thursday September 14, 7pm @ Fautleroy Church



**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**MEETING #79, March 9, 2017, FAUNTLEROY CHURCH**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Chris Nack, Peggy Cummings, Elizabeth Butler

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

**1. Introductions**

**2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$1,038.98 in our Washington Federal checking account after spending \$465.38 for coir logs and stakes for emergency stream erosion control in the lower creek.

**4. In the media**

Dennis noted the story and photos on the *West Seattle Blog* about the emergency works in the lower creek.

**5. Special report: Stormwater in the watershed**: 6th grade geo-mapping project, Guadalupe School Science teacher Michael Stein-Ross and students presented a GIS story map of their geo-mapping project for Fauntleroy Park and the surrounding watershed, analyzing what we know about the watershed and the stormwater drainage system. Many parents were also present.

They divided the territory into five study areas, each with a stormwater system map. They looked at trees, streets, and catch basins that could affect the water quality of runoff, especially in Area C. Within this boundary, they mapped canopy cover, buildings, and impervious surfaces. Only about 40% of the watershed is canopy, mostly in the park. About 17% is impervious pavement, which collects toxins that flow into the water along with garbage and gasoline, into catch basins in some parts of the watershed, then into Fauntleroy Creek and Puget Sound. Area C has 11 catch basins. Discussion included several suggestions for follow up, including a cleared understanding of the current drainage system and natural ways to minimize toxins within the park and things that can be done in the community to reduce the impacts in stormwater.

***Action item: Judy will seek a current map from the city showing watershed drainage so students can correct/update their project.***

***Action item: Chris will post a link to the final project report on our website and Judy will share with agency colleagues as appropriate.***

**6. Special projects**

Salmon in the schools: Steev reported completing salmon dissections at two schools; the next one will be March 17. We may have one or two carcasses go unclaimed.

Judy reported that salmon releases will begin April 28. Genesee Hill and Concord will each will have two releases this year and the city is working with Concord to release elsewhere next year, if it stays in the program. Highland Park Elementary is showing strong interest in participating next year. She got what appears to be the last of the Marine Life of Puget Sound posters from the ferry system and is offering them to our schools on a first-come basis.

Out-migration monitoring: Steev said smolt traps will be in place in the upper and lower creek by March 15. Pete Draughon and Dennis will faithfully check each daily through Memorial Day.

Flow data: As part of its culvert assessment, the city has installed a flow meter near the trap in the upper creek and Judy arranged for staff to share flow data with the Guadalupe students.

Trails pilot @ Food Fest: Peggy reported that she and Chukundi Salisbury will have an information booth/display at the Food Fest. The goal is to inform area residents about the project and solicit volunteers for a trails focus group/recommendations for Fauntleroy Park.

Archives: Judy has been going through watershed files dating from 1989 and sent the last of 499 photos to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. One shows Jack Davis, then executive director of the King Conservation District, planting a maple tree in the lower creek; his site visit led to our first dedicated technical assistance to restore the creek.

## **7. Seattle Parks**

Carol initiated a discussion about the Roxbury Bog situation - safety concerns and deterioration of the once-restored habitat. Seattle Public Utilities did an investigation of their drainage piping in effort to help determine why the wetland is so dry. (The wetland is a source for Longfellow Creek and maybe also Fauntleroy Creek.) It is complicated and there are several theories. The fact is that many of the cells that were wet year around in 2000 are now dry. The result is people hanging out in these brushy areas in summer. Interested community volunteers have also done investigation. Advisers believe that a more detailed hydrological assessment may be needed but no city resources are presently available for it.

Carol also discussed the impact of new emergency regulations regarding homeless encampments. Forty people from Seattle Parks have been assigned responsibility for clean up of camps, including using heavy equipment and hazmat removal (a significant draw on resources). Other departments and agencies are involved, requiring close coordination for over 14 weeks. Of the estimated 400 encampments in Seattle, 40 are priority sites for removal.

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

Lower-creek maintenance work: Dennis summarized the recent emergency work to check bank erosion due upstream of the fish ladder. The pathway on city property used by hundreds of children and salmon watchers has become hazardous. After consultation with hydrologist Steve Winter, a crew of volunteers installed coir logs on March 4 along several feet of bank, as approved by State Fish and Wildlife. They also removed ivy in the area to encourage flow to return to its historical location. Judy noted plans to invite Guadalupe students to plant cuttings in the coir to establish new habitat.

Grant application: Judy reported that the conservation district will be calling for grant proposals in June to disperse Seattle money. Given the present scope of work for the lower creek, we would be looking at installation in 2018, with three years of plant maintenance to follow. SPU is no longer the lead city department in making grant decisions, having shifted its focus to stormwater. Climate change, including native plant survival, has become a significant issue to be addressed.

***Action item: Judy will get the request for proposals from the conservation district and keep us advised.***

Culvert inspections: Phil met with SPU's culvert supervisor, Betsy Lyons, to discuss the culvert system under the church parking lot. The plan is to adjust the grate at Fenton Glen to provide ready access for videotaping the culvert as needed; the city will pay for this work.

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

Forest steward: Peggy briefed us about the Green Seattle Partnership's shareholders event on Feb. 4. She had table space with our photo poster, annual reports, and watershed brochure. The keynote

speaker, Nalini Nadkarni, PhD, emphasized how to think outside the box to engage people in projects. Regarding GSP's 20-year plan, the project is going into the second 10 years on target and in good shape with progress and prospects for achieving goals around healthy people, communities, and environment. Outreach to underserved communities is of particular interest. She had a good discussion with Matthew Schwartz from EarthCorps about his ideas on the importance of pollinators in the ecosystem and how we should consider them in plant selection, especially for open and shrubby areas on steep slopes (especially applicable to Kilbourne).

Dogs in the parks continues with more discussion toward a final report in May.

She noted concerns about the mesh on the salmon-release bridge and its possible impact on kids sitting there. She accompanied Taproot students on a test; they concluded that having the mesh to not a problem but that it needs to be well anchored.

***Action item: Carol noted the need for additional anchorage.***

Kilbourne restoration: Judy said that EarthCorps will be in the ravine three times this calendar year, beginning in May.

#### **10. Good of the order/upcoming events**

- March 21: Fauntleroy Food Fest, 6 pm, Hall @ Fauntleroy
- April 23: Recycle Roundup, 9 am - 3 pm, church parking lot

**Next meeting: Thursday May 11, 7 pm @ Fauntleroy Church**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**MEETING #78, JANUARY 12, 2017, FAUNTLEROY CHURCH**

**ATTENDEES**

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

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker, Chukundi Salisbury

**1. Introductions**

**2. Minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis reported that we have \$1,510.37 in our Washington Federal checking account. The Fauntleroy Community Association treasurer is currently processing a bill for \$1,999.00 for the Kilbourne project, to be paid by grant funding.

**4. In the media**

Dennis noted a recent article on the *West Seattle Blog* about Judy and Phil's delivery of salmon eggs to the schools, featuring Sanislo.

**5. Seattle Parks**

Carol provided the following updates:

- General comments about the 2017 budget, noting no big changes in operating funding for this park district.
- The department is undergoing a reorganization that is budget neutral. A maintenance position has been filled, enabling work in several area parks on a regular basis.
- Staff has almost completed repairing Fauntleroy Park boardwalks and installing wire mesh. The impact of mesh placed down the middle of the salmon-release bridge was discussed.

***Action item: Peggy will ask students at Taproot School to assess the safety of this mesh and report their advice to Carol before spring salmon releases.***

Chukundi Salisbury presented information about planning to engage park users in an organized way to help the department make decisions about trail maintenance, development, and signage. He distributed a draft of how the evaluation and approval process might transpire that creates institutional memory - so decisions are more methodical and not so susceptible to pressures of various kinds. He asked if we would work with him, using our resources as a watershed council to pilot the new system for community involvement to the benefit of Fauntleroy Park. Judy brought up the possibility of having an information table at the March 21 Fauntleroy Food Fest to recruit focus-group participation and also maybe an article in the community newsletter.

***Action item: Judy will reserve a council table at the food fest so that Chukundi might make his pitch to area residents, aided by Peggy.***

**6. Special projects**

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported delivery of coho eggs on Jan. 4. Staff at Soos Creek Hatchery got our eggs from another hatchery in that watershed as all the coho eggs at Soos Creek hatched by Christmas Day - several days too early. Judy reported that several schools had asked already to schedule releases and four are now on the calendar in May. Steev said he will start salmon dissections on Jan. 18 at Our Lady of Guadalupe School. Because he doesn't need a "rehearsal" carcass, we were able to include Genesee Hill Elementary (formerly Schmitz Park) to the list for this bonus activity.

Out migration monitoring: Steev said his plan is to place upper and lower traps on or about March 15.

Barton basin CSO control (RainWise): Judy reported that this rebate program for rain gardens and above-ground cisterns closed the end of the year. Owners of 121 properties in the basin will receive a total of \$563,000 in rebates and capture an estimated 225,000 square feet of roof runoff during rain storms, thus keeping it out of the storm drain system.

Conductivity monitoring: Phil reported that Seattle Public Utilities has installed two electrical-conductivity monitors for water quality testing in the creek, at the fish ladder and at Fenton Glen. Data on electrical conductivity indicates whether or not sewage is present.

2016 annual report: Judy presented a draft outline of our 2016 annual report and requested that any additions be sent to her soon. The executive committee will review the draft report before distribution.

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

Forest steward: Peggy reported the following:

- Seattle Parks has installed understory plants in the large cedar grove along the main trail above the big bridge, adding shade-tolerant species, mulch, and much needed soil amendments. The crew installed a temporary fence along the main trail to protect the area from human and critter foot traffic.
- When working with Taproot students to evaluate the mesh on the big bridge, she will provide more plastic bags and signs for the poop “bag it” program.
- She will be attending the Green Seattle Partnership's annual shareholders meeting on Feb. 4.

Kilbourne restoration: Judy reported that roughly \$70,000 has been spent to date, including \$39,000 in 2016. One day of crew work was paid by Seattle Public Utilities to compensate for the culvert flooding of wetland plants at 45th Ave. SW. Six crew days are scheduled for 2017. Judy has asked our project supervisor with EarthCorps for a summary of work in 2016 to share with the inspector for the Seattle Department of Transportation, in lieu of our having to pay inspection fees.

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

Judy reported that volunteer hydrologist Steve Winter is prepared to lead an emergency work to stabilize eroding stream bank due upstream of the fish ladder, a project Seattle Public Utilities declined to fund in 2015. He has been advocating that the utility consider urban creeks as important as pipes in the city's drainage system, including budgeting for such maintenance. The King Conservation District will coordinate another round of Seattle jurisdictional grants in the spring.

***Action item: Judy will look into our trying again for a jurisdictional grant to fund maintenance work in the lower creek.***

**Next meeting:** Thursday, **March 9**, 7pm @ Fauntleroy Church