

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #87, November 8, 2018, Fauntleroy Church

### **ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack, 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 \$920.63 in our checking account. The stewardship fund has reached over \$10,000 (a mis-statement; not yet).

### **4. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis noted that the *West Seattle Blog* ran a story on the salmon drumming and two stories about spawners in the creek.

Salmon Watch: Dennis reported that 18 spawners have been spotted to date, including three spawning pairs and four jacks. Many people have stopped by during watches and classes have come from Taproot School and from St. Francis of Assisi School. Logs at the mouth of the creek have not been an obstacle for the fish.

Fall festival: Judy reported that our booth at the festival drew 175 kids to make salmon hats. Helpers included Cathy and Ellie Follis, who are on deck to take over leadership as Judy needs to retire. The festival drew about 2,000 people with good weather and many fun events. Pete again staffed his popular fly-tying booth.

Salmon drumming: Judy also reported having about 30 people at our annual drumming to call in spawners, many for the first time. Because of on and off rain, it was moved to the Pickens/Sweetland carport, which turned out to be a good location with shelter and ready access to the creek afterwards. People shared good and bad fish jokes and Jamie Shilling again led the singing and drumming.

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

- The department has no final budget yet for 2019.
- After installation training, a crew repaired the mesh on the boardwalk in Fauntleroy Park. No mesh was placed on the big bridge.
- Department carpenters inspected the bridge after volunteer hydrologist Steve Winter expressed concerns; they found no problems. However, the structural engineer has returned to work and will do an inspection as well.

### **6. Stewardship/habitat**

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- Fauntleroy Park has entered a quiet time, with beautiful fall foliage and an abundance of fungus and mushrooms. The trails are in good shape. Steve Hodson continues his stewardship. Peggy cleaned the two kiosks, stocked brochure holders, and installed new maps, which include bird photos.

- Steve was able to attend the memorial service for Steve Bomkamp and he and Peggy will be meeting with Karen Farnsworth to discuss a memorial tree planting and also to review her late husband's plan for improving water runoff problems at the Cambridge Street entrance.
- Parks has removed the morning glory and other invasives in Kilbourne Park that were smothering new trees near the sidewalk and bus stop. The Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center board replaced the chain-link fence along the loading dock and cleaned out the weeds and blackberry in the area that is proposed for the native-plant display garden.
- The issue of trail use by mountain bikes in Cheasty Park is back. Proposals were rejected a couple of years ago and new plans are available for review. They avoid most of the wetland area but have riders and pedestrians sharing the same hilly, curving trails, which raises safety concerns. The Nature Alliance position is that trails in public parks are for all to passively enjoy and that set-asides or development for special interests are not appropriate. The comment period was extended to Nov. 14.

**Action item: Peggy will draft and submit a comment on our behalf in line with the Alliance's position.**

Nearshore: Judy reported the following:

- Mike Dey contacted the State Department of Natural Resources about removing numerous creosote logs on the beach by the ferry terminal and creek mouth that are polluting the habitat. The process involves getting written consent from each homeowner in Fauntleroy Cove. The process is slated to start in January.
- "The Stench" was back this summer from an algae bloom in the cove, covering the beaches with rotting seaweed and sending noxious hydrogen sulfide gas into the neighborhood. She was able to identify a unit within the State Department of Ecology now concerned about such blooms and got the cove on the unit's monitoring list.

Orca update: Kersti reported that the southern resident Orcas are back in our area; they normally come in October. The governor's task force has submitted its recommendations, which include a 3-5 year moratorium on whale watching and the culling of California sea lions in the Columbia River basin to protect Chinook salmon, a vital food for the Orcas. Kersti noted that two sea lions found dead recently in Elliott Bay had bullet wounds. The governor's office is accepting comments. Judy noted that Donna Sandstrom from the Whale Trail will be available for individual questions at the Alternative Giving Fair.

Stewardship Fund: Judy reported the following:

- She and Denise Wallace (property manager for the schoolhouse) attended a meeting of the West Seattle Garden Tour committee and gave a brief presentation about our funding request for a native-plant garden along the new fence at the schoolhouse to call attention to restored habitat in the Kilbourne ravine. About \$600 of our \$4,000 request would go to the garden and the rest to the stewardship fund to continue EarthCorps annual maintenance of the ravine after our current grant expires at the end of 2019. If successful, our commitment would include having an information table at one of the 2019 tour sites.
- We will have a table at this year's Alternative Giving Fair to solicit donations to our Stewardship Fund. Our thank you will be a ticket book entitling donors to audit a salmon release, etc.

## **7. Education**

School field trips: At the start of spawning season, 22 K-5 students and teachers from Taproot School walked down to the lower creek for an impromptu salmon session with Dennis. Then on Oct. 31, Dennis, Peggy, Pete, and Judy hosted 48 kindergartners and 12 adults from St Francis of Assisi School for habitat exploring along the lower creek. Dennis said the kids were attentive and engaged, finding many treasures: leaves, seed pods, fungus, fern spores, and the big prize: fresh salmon eggs left on the ground by a predator.

Guadalupe benthic study: Judy reported that 26 6th-graders from Our Lady of Guadalupe School came on Oct. 22 for the annual sampling of macroinvertebrates at upper- and lower-creek sites. Because the

teacher is new, Judy went to the school a week ahead to demonstrate use of the sampler and review the protocol. Sampling in Fenton Glen was a little rough but the students gained confidence by the time they got to the lower creek. The session there included Judy's offering advice about what to include in their report. A week later, Judy, Phil, Peggy, Kersti, and Chapin Pier from Seattle Public Utilities went to the classroom for that report. Judy updated the ongoing written report, sought comment from the class, and forwarded to SPU scientists. Discussion ensued about how we might help the teacher restore the caliber of this research project to maximize learning at the same time we get informative data.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that the citywide workshop for new teachers and tank volunteers was Oct. 28. New at [www.sisseattle.org/learning](http://www.sisseattle.org/learning): "Broken Fish: Collapse of the Coho" film as well as new/updated lesson plans in line with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core. With requests for Steev Ward to do seven dissections (two each from Westside and Boren), Phil and Judy fetched nine spawner carcasses from the Soos Creek Hatchery, all now in Peggy's freezer. Tanks are all in good order and Phil, Judy, and Jack Lawless will deliver salmon eggs on Jan. 8. St. Francis of Assisi in Burien and Roxhill are possible additions to the program in 2020.

### **8. Upcoming**

Alternative Giving Fair Sunday, Dec. 2, 11 am - 4 pm @ Fauntleroy Church

**Next Meeting:** Thursday **January 10**, 7 pm @ Fauntleroy Church

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #86, September 16, 2018, Fautleroy Church

### ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack, Pete Draughon, Steev Ward, Steve Williamson, Craig Pedersen.

Fautleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Minutes

Approved as distributed.

### 3. Treasurer's report

Dennis reported that we have \$940.63 in our account.

### 4 Stewardship/Habitat

Kilbourne work/permit fee: Judy reported that an EarthCorps crew was scheduled to work in the ravine two days this week for monitoring and maintenance. A crew will be here again in December for fall planting. She inquired but the crew chief had seen no evidence of beaver activity. Thanks to help from this area's inspector, she was able to relieve us of having to pay an annual street-use inspection fee; from now on, an annual report to the Seattle Department of Transportation inspector will suffice. After December, we will have one more calendar year funded by the King Conservation District grant.

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- She met with Michael Yadrick, Judy, and Phil on May 9 and May 22 to discuss the open-space restoration project in the lower creek by the Green Seattle Partnership, focusing on development of a scope of work for the contractor. Herbicide injection will be used on large laurels except at the sidewalk where they will be retained for now to discourage intrusion. The contractor will work on the steep slope, SDOT right of way, and around the fish ladder. Once invasives are removed, planting of the flat lower area will be done by volunteers in the fall; the plants have been ordered. Discussion about the use of herbicides and apparent lack of notification to adjoining property owners ensued.

***Action item: Carol will clarify with Michael whether or not they have been notified.***

- Salmon-release visitors: During this release season, a local aide for Rep. Pramila Jayapal audited a salmon release, as did King County Councilman Joe McDermott.
- Brown bat: On May 31, Nancie Hernandez with Seattle Salmon in the Schools came for a release and secured a dead brown bat discovered near the trail. She and Peggy followed established protocol so that no children came into contact with it; Peggy notified Public Health of the find and disposed of the bat. She also notified the Fautleroy Children's Center and church to be cautious with children in the park and to review the information about bat encounters.
- Training: Peggy recently met with Andrea Mojzak for training in reporting forest-steward activities, time spent, and events to the Green Seattle Partnership.
- Kilbourne Park: In July and August, Peggy notified Carol about lack of maintenance in the park portion of the Kilbourne ravine bordering the sidewalk. Newly planted trees were totally buried in morning glory, suggesting no recent care.
- Fautleroy Park: On June 19, a park visitor found a small fire in the base of a large tree off the main trail and called 911. The fire department extinguished the fire, with no apparent serious damage to the tree. Notification was sent to Seattle Parks and the Green Seattle Partnership. In July, Steve Hodson found an encampment near the Barton Street entrance behind a house; he notified Seattle Parks, which

dismantled the encampment, and Steve helped clean the area. The park is dry with early leaf drop in riparian areas and the boardwalks have been repaired pending a permanent fix for the mesh.

Stewardship fund/garden grant application: Judy reported the following:

- We received a donation of \$800 from West Seattle Rotary's past-presidents fund, bringing the total to \$6,875.
- She is applying to the West Seattle Garden Tour for \$4,000 in grant funding to establish an educational native garden along the fence at the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse Community Center's loading dock. The plot is about 4 feet by 6 feet and would serve to educate as well as discourage entry into the Kilbourne ravine and vandalism of a new sign about native plants (refacing of existing project sign). Students at Taproot School would be involved with garden planting and maintaining the garden, with schoolhouse management ultimately responsible. Our presentation to the tour's leadership team will be in mid October.

### **5. Remembering Steve Bomkamp**

Council founder and ardent Fauntleroy Park supporter Steve Bomkamp passed away suddenly in August while on his regular run. Steve loved the park and spent years working to improve it. He started Friends of Fauntleroy Park and later became a steady presence on the council, quiet but with sound ideas and insights. Steve Hodson has suggested planting a tree in his memory at the SW 97th entrance near his home. His wife, Karen Farnsworth, has scheduled a memorial celebration October 7 at Camp Long.

***Action item: Peggy will pursue a memorial tree planting with Steve Hodson and Karen.***

### **6. Seattle Parks**

Carol reported the following:

- Concerns about the boardwalk and the safety of the mesh in Fauntleroy Park continue. Some work was done to repair existing mesh, including removing it from the release bridge. Her crew is receiving training for boardwalk repair and installation of a new mesh product.
- Department carpenters did an assessment of the bridge and determined it is structurally sound for now.

### **7. Education**

Judy and Phil reported the following:

- The annual sampling for macroinvertebrates will be Oct. 22 with 27 sixth graders from Our Lady of Guadalupe School. Sarah Nadalin is the new and enthusiastic science teacher. The project will include a report to council members and others able to support this student research.
- Salmon in the Schools - Seattle has 72 permits for schools to get eggs; 50 are public and the rest private. Louisa Boren STEM is new for Fauntleroy Creek. Judy developed/updated eight lesson plans to align with next generation science standards and common core requirements. The program's annual report will be available soon.
- Steev Ward will again do in-class dissections of coho spawners for interested schools.
- St. Francis of Assisi will bring 48 kindergarteners and assorted parents to the lower creek for an orientation to the habitat; Pete, Dennis, and Peggy will be on hand to guide groups and Judy will coordinate.

### **8. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported a salmon-release wrap article on the West Seattle Blog in May, plus release and watch article in the Fauntleroy Community Association's June and September newsletters.

Creek People gathering : Judy summarized high points of the gathering that Seattle Public Utilities organized and hosted in June in the wake of our presentation to a City Council committee; she also provided a written summary. Miles Mayhew is following up on ideas to revitalize communication between the city and its watersheds and among watersheds.

Salmon Watch: Dennis reported that the watch will begin about Oct. 20, depending on the tides. He emphasized that any access to the beach near the creek mouth will be through the Lantz-Dey property. Fall festival salmon hats and drumming: Judy called for volunteers to help young children decorate salmon hats during the Oct. 21 festival. She noted that the drumming will be the following Sunday (oct. 28) at the fish-ladder viewpoint (or the Pickens/Sweetland porch in the event of rain).

### **9. Good of the Order/upcoming events**

Second Time Sale Saturday Sept. 15, 9 am - 4 pm, Sept. 16, 11:30 am - 2 pm @ the church

Recycle Roundup Sunday Sept. 23, 9 am - 3 pm in the church parking lot

Fauntleroy Fall Festival Sunday Oct. 21, 2 - 5 pm in the church/Y/schoolhouse triangle

Salmon drumming Sunday Oct. 28, 5 pm at the fish-ladder viewpoint

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #85, May 10, 2018, Fautleroy Church

### ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack, Craig Pedersen

Fautleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Minutes

Approved as distributed

### 3. Treasurer's report

Dennis reported that we have \$1,033.22 in our checking account.

### 4. Seattle Parks update

Carol reported the following about projects elsewhere in West Seattle:

- The planning process for expanding the Morgan Junction Park has started.
- Work is scheduled on the new Alaska Junction Park.
- Parks planning staff is engaged in planning for Sound Transit expansion.
- Discussion continues about impacts of the eroding seawall at Lowman Beach. Parks' position is to allow it to erode naturally and restore the beach to its original state.
- The seawall at the Emma Schmitz viewpoint will need to be replaced and re-enforced as it supports the Beach Drive roadway and sewer and stormwater pipes.

Carol has asked Parks engineers to do a safety inspection and evaluation of the big bridge in Fautleroy Park (the salmon-release site). Last spring, hydrologist Steve Winter raised concern about erosion of footings and did so again this spring when he checked flow before releases began.

***Action item: Judy will send Steve's observations to Carol to aid in the staff evaluation.***

Carol also announced that the question about whether to repair or replace the wire mesh on park boardwalks and on the big bridge should be answered by fall.

### 4. Education

Salmon releases: Dennis and Judy chimed in to reported that the 700 students scheduled for releases is fewer than last year. To date, 200 kids have released 500 fish. June 1 will be the last release. Judy has invited City Councilwoman Lisa Herbold and County Councilman Joe McDermott to attend a release. Betsy Lyons and others with the culvert-replacement project are expected to attend a release.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that the application from the state has approved the Louisa Boren STEM program's application to participate next school year. Chief Sealth is likely not to continue as that teacher is an intern, so won't be there next year. Sealth will do its own release and plans to tailor our habitat-exploration worksheet to older students. EarthCorps crewmembers working in the Kilbourne ravine next week will meet with Pathfinder students to talk about that project and careers in restoration.

### 5. Research

Out-migration monitoring: Dennis reported that its been a very good year for smolts, with 42 counted so far, including three today; this count compares to 32 all of last year. The annual study will close by the end of the month.

Exoskeleton research: Judy reported that the Guadalupe sixth-graders' annual count of stonefly exoskeletons in the lower creek documented the second-highest number since this study began (2002).

All involved recommended that it be done earlier next year (in late March) as out-migration monitors saw exoskeletons as early as mid March again this year. Two scientists from Seattle Public Utilities were there to talk with the students about the city's current conductivity study; they also gave them a handout about watershed drainage to pore over back at school.

## **6. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported that the *West Seattle Blog* recently covered the first salmon release and the exoskeleton count, with mention of the Watershed Stewardship Fund. An article on releases and the fund will be in the June 1 community newsletter.

Creek people gathering: Judy reported that, after our presentation to the city council committee, Miles Mayhew with Seattle Public Utilities began organizing a gathering of representatives from Seattle's creeks, something that hasn't happened in many years. Judy and Phil will represent the watershed at the June 19 gathering of citizen advocates and city staff people.

Updated brochure: Judy handed out copies of the updated watershed brochure. "About" text has been updated, the nature walk now reflects changes in the habitat, and most photos are new. Rather than a chart, bird life is summarized in the text.

***Action item: Judy and Peggy will update the large maps we have in Fauntleroy Park kiosks and include photos of birds common to the park; Chris will make copies for Peggy to post.***

## **7. Stewardship/Habitat**

Stewardship fund: Judy has contacted West Seattle Rotary and Kiwanis about giving an update on the watershed, including the fund. To date, we have raised \$6,075 from 19 donors, plus another \$700 expected from Rotary's past-presidents fund. She noted that one donor unknown to us gave \$1,000, which his employer matched 100%!

Forest steward report: Peggy reported the following:

- Fauntleroy Park is looking good right now. Parks crews prepared trails and boardwalks for students coming for salmon releases, including removing the wire mesh from the big bridge and repaired it on boardwalks. They cleaned the rock steps at the release site and placed in the muddy section there. They even brushed and blew the trail at Barton Street entrance.
- Peggy and Phil met with Michael Yadrick for a walk around about restoration of the open-space site in the lower creek. They reviewed the work that contractors have done and what is planned for the rest of the project. The crew has injected laurel with herbicide and it will start dying back soon. The crew will remove the laurel should start to die back in a few months and can be safely removed in the fall. The crew will prepare the flat area for volunteers to install about 200 plants in the winter. The professional crew will prepare the steep slope and then install about 2,000 plants. Laurel at the top of the slope will remain in place to screen the area from public access until native plants are established (about 2-3 years). Michael plans to have the weeding schedule by the end of May and planting will take place November through March. Peggy will be preparing a plant list for the flat area and coordinate with Forest Steward Coordinator Eric Sterner for the volunteer work.
- Steve Bomkamp has been repairing drainage damage at the Cambridge Street entrance to the park. He gave Peggy a detailed proposal of what's needed and she will be consulting with Chukundi Salisbury about the best way to move forward on what Steve's proposal. It could be an Eagle Scout project.
- Fellow forest steward Steve Hodson has recovered and is back doing good work in the park.
- Peggy will be contacting individuals who recently expressed interest in volunteering in the park.

Whale update: Kersti Muul presented the following report in writing:

- The governor has chosen his task force to address how to save and protect the critically endangered southern resident orcas. It has about 60 people but is not a diverse group (the Pacific Whale Watch Association is in the vessel group) and many whale groups were left out and are not happy about it. (Donna Sandstrom with The Whale Trail was added after she petitioned the governor.) Any changes that result probably will not go into effect until next year.
- Yesterday (May 9) State Fish and Wildlife announced a voluntary no-go zone for the west side of San Juan Island. It is not the same as the proposed mandatory zone that NOAA has out for public comment; no decision yet on that one. A voluntary no-go zone already exists for whale-watch boats only (not many are volunteering, though) but this new one would include recreational and fishing boats.
- A paternity report was just released confirming that inbreeding is very large concern as two males have been fathering most of the calves. Researchers also found instances of mothers breeding with their own offspring.

Kilbourne work & permit extension: Judy reported that an EarthCorps crew is due next week. Also the street-use permit inspector notified her that our permit for Kilbourne had expired and shepherded our extension application through the process at no cost

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

Oct. 21 was just announced as the date for this year's Fauntleroy Fall Festival.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday September 13, 7pm @ Fauntleroy Church

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #84, March 8, 2018, Fauntleroy Church

### ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Steev Ward, Pete Draughon, Kersti Muul, and Craig Pedersen

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Written report

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Minutes

Approved as distributed.

### 3. Treasurer's report

Dennis reported that we have \$1,053.05, including 17 cents in new interest, in our checking account.

### 4. In the media

Dennis noted the *West Seattle Blog's* story about our stewardship fund-raising through EarthCorps. It was also on the Blog's Facebook page and in the Fauntleroy Community Association's March newsletter.

### 5. Seattle Parks update

In writing, Carol Baker reported that boardwalk repair and removal of the metal mesh on the big bridge is scheduled for March.

### 6. Special projects

Dennis, Peggy, and Judy provided the following two reports:

Stewardship Fund - As of this week, EarthCorps had received \$2,550 in donations earmarked for stewardship work in this watershed. Judy passed out copies of the prospectus, offered background on establishing the fund, and showed the thank-you card we will be sending to each donor.

Presentation to City Council committee - On Feb. 13, Judy, Dennis, and Peggy made a 20-minute presentation to the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development and Arts Committee, chaired by Lisa Herbold, who extended the invitation after seeing our 2017 annual report. Phil provided what proved to be critical chauffeur service to city hall.

Brief comments about educating, volunteering, and stewarding, backed by PowerPoint photo slides, provided an overview. Questions from Lisa and Councilmember Mike O'Brien took discussion into our past and present relationship with Seattle Public Utilities, the culvert project (with SPU project lead Betsy Lyons), and the stewardship fund (with EarthCorps development director Lydia Bassett). Judy's "ask" was for SPU to reconvene Seattle's creek people to restore two-way communication and help retain the city's considerable investment to date in its urban creeks. Lisa offered the assistance of her aide to get the ball rolling. As it happened, SPU's General Manager Mami Hara was in the room for a later presentation and voiced her strong support as our delegation left.

Salmon in the Schools – Phil, Judy, and Steev reported the following:

All schools have fish that are free swimming and eating. Releases are being scheduled beginning in late April and Phil will post information about the bus subsidy when it becomes available. A crew from EarthCorps will be in Kilbourne ravine in May and will meet with one of the school groups. Steev is now actively engaged in doing in-class dissections of the dozen carcasses in Peggy's freezer. Sixth-grade science students from Our Lady of Guadalupe will conduct the stonefly exoskeleton count in April.

Out-migration - Dennis reported that he, Steve, and Pete will get upper and lower traps in place by March 15 to begin daily checking for smolts.

Puget Sound whales - Kersti reported the following:

Senate Bill 5886 addresses whale watching and other Orca-related concerns, including speed of boats, permits for whale watching, and time limits. Without language establishing protection zones for whales or stronger enforcement, however, the legislation isn't very meaningful legislation. In an aside, she reported monitoring Barred owls nesting on the Pathfinder School grounds, where she found a tick infestation among rodents.

Culvert projects - Judy relayed news from Betsy Lyons that the city's contract for options analysis is not yet signed; once it is, the process is expected to take about a year. The city and the church share the goal of getting a formal assessment of salmonid habitat gain, should the culvert under the church parking lot be made fish passable. Letters from SPU to property owners near the culverts will be sent soon.

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

Forest steward report - Peggy reported the following:

- She attended the Green Seattle Partnership's shareholders meeting at Daybreak Star Center Jan. 27; the "Telling Our Stories" theme emphasized the challenges and successes of forest stewards. Lynda Mapes, Seattle Times environmental reporter, spoke about what the forest in general and old-growth trees in particular can tell us about the reality of climate change, based on her book, "Witness Tree: Seasons of Change in a Century Old Oak." New personnel and leadership were introduced, and handouts summarized progress during the first half of the 20-year GSP program.
- A huge cedar tree came down over the trail at the southwest end of the east-west boardwalk. With Steve Hodson's help to clear a passage, walkers kept getting through and Seattle Parks responded quickly to remove the tree.
- Peggy emailed Carol about work needed in the park before salmon releases; included removing the mesh on the bridge, trimming the maple tree at the Barton entrance, and checking for any needed trail maintenance.
- Steve broke his ankle and will be out of the woods for 6-8 weeks. Applied Ecology finished the planting near 37th SW and along the trail into the park from SW 97th.

Clematis campaign. Judy reported that she and Peggy staffed a table at the Fautleroy Food Festival, resulting in several productive conversations about wild clematis (Peggy) and the Stewardship Fund (Judy). An article about clematis in the March 1 community newsletter also responded to a requirement of our grant to restore the Kilbourne ravine.

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

Dennis reported the mailing of our creek-monitoring protocol to all owners of a part of the creek channel, as defined by County Assessor maps.

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

Recycle Roundup Sunday April 22, 9:00am-3:00pm in the church parking lot

**Next meeting:** Thursday May 10, 7pm @ Fautleroy Church

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

## Meeting #83, January 11, 2018, Fautleroy Church

### ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Steve Bomkamp, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Elizabeth Butler, Steev Ward, Chris Nack, and Craig Pedersen

Fautleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Minutes

Approved as distributed.

### 3. Treasurer's report

Dennis reported that we have \$1,052.88, including 19 cents in recent interest in our checking account.

### 4. In the media

Dennis noted *West Seattle Blog* coverage of the first salmon egg delivery to Highland Park Elementary.

### 5. Seattle Parks update

Carol Baker reported the following:

- The department's Project Challenge Fund has \$1.6 million to award this year for community-initiated major projects to renovate, expand, or upgrade a Seattle Parks facility or park. Carol provided a hand out about this match-required fund and details are available on the Seattle Parks website.
- She has had several inquiries about the metal mesh on boardwalks in Fautleroy Park, noting poor repair and tripping hazards. After a site visit, she asked her carpentry shop to oversee redoing the mesh, with the support of Trails and specialty staff from multiple resource units at Parks.

We discussed volunteer Scout projects in the park, including the recent rebuilding of box steps and a current inquiry from an Eagle candidate who's grown up on the creek.

***Action item: Carol will send Peggy Seattle Parks' updated criteria for such projects to forward to the candidate and also to her forest-steward colleague, Steve Hodson.***

### 6. Website Update

Chris provided her annual update of activity on our website, including several charts, with these highlights:

- Salmon in the Schools was taken off when SIS-Seattle got its own site, which likely contributed to a lower number of visitors in 2017.
- The most frequent page visits were to the park, the park map, the creek, education, and education lesson plans.
- Search sources were Google, direct URL, West Seattle Blog, Salmon in the Schools, and Fautleroy.net.
- English was the number one language.
- Searches originated, in order of magnitude, in Seattle, unknown, Kingston, and Beijing.
- We have seen an increase in social media exposure.
- Total number of visits for the past five years was 8,056. with 21,791 page views.

## **7. Special projects**

Salmon in the Schools - Phil, Judy, and Steev reported the following:

- Phil, Judy, and Shannon Ninburg delivered eggs on Jan. 4 to 14 schools and Jack delivered to our three preschools.
- Shannon audited the PowerPoint presentation, Salmon Connections, at West Seattle Elementary in anticipation of her taking over this learning opportunity from Judy for our schools.
- Sanislo had tank problems right off the bat, which Phil was able to fix.
- After the sudden death of Brendan Evasick at Christmas, Our Lady of Guadalupe hired a new science teacher, on the job just one day when eggs arrived. The first-grade teacher and her class took over monitoring the fish tank.
- Steev has already done three carcass dissections, all for different classes at Highland Park Elementary, and found students and staff quite enthusiastic about the program.
- Genesee Hill alerted Judy of its intention to leave the program and within a half hour she got word that Sealth International High School wanted in. Phil was able to swap the permit and borrow all of Genesee's equipment for this first-time engagement with the high school. The intern at Sealth secured his own carcasses for dissection, thus making Genesee's available for Guadalupe.
- By teacher request, Judy is already scheduling releases in May.

Peggy brought up the large bigleaf maple at the Barton Street entrance, where low-hanging branches obscure the kiosk and block the view from the street of any unsavory activity that might go on there.

***Action item: Peggy will coordinate with Carol to address the tree.***

Annual Report - Judy shared draft content for the 2017 annual report for review and comment. Elizabeth suggested it mention the lone beaver that inhabited the reach to the beach for a few days in the fall. Credibly identified as a beaver, it cut a multi-stalk woody shrub in the Lantz/Dey yard, gnawed down a mature cherry tree in the Butler/Kim landscaping, did a bit of dam building, and disappeared.

Ferries long-range planning - Judy reported that long-range planning under way by the state calls for replacing the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal, primarily because of its creosote piles, seismic concerns, and height in relation to projected effects of climate change. The Legislature mandated the planning in order to make funding decisions. If funded, work might begin in 2022. The recent crane at the dock was for repairs and the project coordinator kindly contacted Judy to make sure the work wouldn't interfere with salmon activity.

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

Forest steward report - Peggy reported the following:

- About 2,500 trees and shrubs have been staged along 37th Ave. SW and also at the 97th Ave. SW entrance to the park; Applied Ecology has the contract for planting in these areas. Steve visited the project and said not much weeding was evident and that some of what had been removed was native.

***Action item: Carol will talk with Michael Yadrick (Green Seattle Partnership) to clarify.***

- Peggy plans to attend the annual Green Seattle Partnership shareholders' meeting Jan. 27 at Day Break Star in Discovery Park.
- The trail at the Barton alley entrance remains muddy and drainage needs to be addressed again before release season; also the trail just before the big bridge.

***Action item: Carol will decide how to keep down mud on the trail by the bridge and confer again with trails staff about the seep that is keeping the alley entrance soupy.***

- Seattle Parks has released a draft of its soft-surface trails management plan, available in full on the Parks website. The goal is to have well-sited, well-designed trails that bring people close to the natural resources of parks and that compliment rather than damage those natural resources. Issues include safety, equity, user experience, environmental sustainability, volunteer engagement, and efficient and effective maintenance. She said that, because Fauntleroy Park is totally natural, few changes would apply here other than some accessibility and maintenance improvements. She noted that no comment period is specified.

**Action item: Peggy will review the draft plan and propose any comment she feels the council should make.**

- The Green Seattle Partnership and Seattle Parks have made organizational and personnel changes. Eric Sterner will support and coordinate forest stewards for all parks and Andrea Mojzak will work with him. Michael Yadrick will manage professional crews and contractors for new project areas and coordinate GSP's maintenance work in all parks. Lisa Ciecko will manage all other contracted groups, including EarthCorps and the Nature Consortium. Goals and work of GSP remain the same.
- Steve Hodson coordinated with Eagle Scout Brendan to replace a deteriorating set of steps on the trail near Forest Court. (His parents did not want his last name used.) They worked the first weekend in December with a crew of scouts, donated materials, a donated staging area, and some supplies from Parks to build a substantial set of stairs.

Kilbourne restoration/clematis - Judy reported that EarthCorps completed Year 4 of the six-year restoration project, putting in 8 crew days and 300 person hours during 2017. Maintenance included measures to improve survival of new plants and removal of more invasives, most notable the eradication of knot weed from the ravine. Survival rings in ivy on the south slope enabled planting of beneficial natives to hold the soil and enhance habitat, as will the 270 shrubs and 90 trees planted. Judy showed photos of crewmembers as they wrapped up work for the winter.

She noted that the scope of work for our King Conservation District grant includes educating residents about wild clematis and the need to remove and not plant it. Judy has ordered a handout for our table at the March 20 Fauntleroy Food Fest and will be working with Peggy on an article for the March neighborhood newsletter, which will include referring homeowners to reliable contractors.

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

Dennis reported that the executive committee had worked with area habitat biologist Larry Fisher to craft a creek-monitoring protocol in the event of a concern about creek-channel conditions. He noted that, throughout the year, volunteers are involved with salmon monitoring and other projects along the creek, most of which take place on public land (parks, undeveloped right-of-way). He proposed the following protocol to follow when the creek flows through private property:

*If a salmon watcher or other volunteer observes what appears to be a barrier to fish passage on private property, the watershed council will make sure the owner is aware and request that the owner assess the situation directly or obtain technical assistance from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

After much discussion, consensus was to publish this protocol in council minutes and in the annual report, plus convey it in writing to those property owners we can identify as having a piece of the creek corridor.

**Next Meeting: Thursday March 8, 7pm @ Fauntleroy Church**