

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #98, January 14, 2021, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Steev Ward, Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Kersti Muul, Chris Nack
Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland
Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

1. Minutes

Minutes from Nov. 12 were approved as distributed.

2. Treasury/fund reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$915.35 in our checking account. Judy noted that Washington Federal had just announced that it's Morgan Junction office will close mid April, leaving us to use the office up toward the Admiral District.

Judy reported the following details about our stewardship fund with EarthCorps:

2020 donations	\$ 3,767.10	(odd amount because of transaction fee paid by donor)
2020 expenditure	\$ 2,683.17	
Balance as of 12/31/20	\$17,836.52	
Total donations as of 12/31/20	\$21,892.10	

3. Seattle Parks

Carol reported the following:

- A few trees came down in Fauntleroy Park during the recent storm but the tree crew happened to be scheduled here and was able to take care of them all.
- Work on the Cambridge Street entrance to the park is on Jacobo Jimenez' 2021 work plan.
- Mulch is ready to spread at our native-plant garden.

4. Volunteer contact with minors

Judy launched a lengthy discussion about protecting ourselves from potential liability when interacting with minors in school buildings and during salmon releases. Mike Arizona's concern about this aspect of our work prompted his decision to resign from our executive committee in favor of devoting his time to on-the-ground activities. Judy summarized the attached information and recommended that anyone volunteering on behalf of our council register before spring with Seattle Schools and with the Children's Center when the state's website is up. Sentiment seemed to be that, though our exposure is minimal, it's something we should address - that individuals should protect themselves to the extent they can.

Decision: The Fauntleroy Watershed Council requires volunteers who have contact with minors to register and be cleared by the Seattle School District and to comply with contact requirements of private schools.

Action item: Judy will provide registration information to all council volunteers.

5. Project activity

Native-plant garden: Peggy reported that it is looking good after Mike's maintenance.

Action item: Peggy will let Mike know that the mulch is there, ready to spread.

Annual report: Judy said that our 2020 edition is coming together. Dennis and Peggy offered to review the draft.

6. Stewardship/habitat

Forest steward report: Peggy noted that Mike and a friend chose a site on the south side of Fauntleroy Park for the 60 plants provided this fall by Seattle Parks. The replanted area near 97th Street is looking good. Neighbors have placed a basketball hoop and garbage cans near the Cambridge Street entrance, which may impede entry; Carol is aware.

Peggy suggested a project for our volunteer-engagement list: cleaning the kiosks at Barton and 97th entrances and refreshing the bird photos. She said the large maps are fine.

Action item: Kersti will ask Mark Wangerin about our using one or more of his bird photos (granted). Kersti and Peggy will give him a list of species most likely to be seen in the park.

Kilbourne ravine: Judy reported that, on July 16, an EarthCorps crew did a maintenance sweep of 20,000 square feet of the ravine. The crew manually removed bindweed, poison hemlock, clematis, spurge laurel, ivy, nightshade, Italian arum and gallium, composting some species onsite and bagging and removing the rest. The pandemic made doing a fall maintenance sweep difficult. She noted that Mike offered to take over scheduling crew days in the ravine, including planning with the crew supervisor.

Action item: Judy will ask Mike to check from a safe vantage point for any major tree debris in the ravine after major wind.

Whale update: Kersti reported seeing transients today in this area and said the southern residents appear to be doing well. Regulations for whale-watching businesses are in effect, limiting when and where their boats can be. A recent major addition to the body of research further validated the need for these limitations.

Creek conditions: Dennis reported monitoring conditions today from the release bridge down to the mouth. Sediment has covered the derelict pipe at the bridge so no flow is going through, which is good. Sediment has also changed where the trap in Fenton Glen typically is but the situation may have resolved itself by March. The spawning reach looks okay. Lots of logs are at the mouth but not under the ferry pier. He said that Seattle Public Utilities has installed a second flow meter upstream in the glen.

Action item: Steev will scout around for the best site to install our smolt trap in the glen on or about March 15.

We briefly talked about the recent study finding that a chemical used in tires is causing pre-spawn mortality. Judy reminded us that, at the request of one of the researchers, we asked our salmon watchers over two years to be on the lookout for pre-spawn behavior but they saw none. That researcher has since left the University of Washington for a position at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Action item: Judy will send Steev and Kersti what contact information she has for that researcher.

7. Outreach

In the media: Dennis noted the *West Seattle Blog's* story and photos of egg pick-up on Jan. 6. Peggy mentioned an interesting article in *The Seattle Times* about the decline of sockeye in Lake Washington.

Website: Chris provided the following data of interest about web usage in 2020:

- Of the 878 new users, 40% came directly, a third via a search, and a third from another site.
- Heaviest use was late fall to late winter.
- Nearly half visited the About Fauntleroy Creek page; 10% the park map.
- A third of visitors were from Seattle.

Volunteer engagement: Judy reviewed the attached potential opportunities for us to engage new volunteers, especially the exceptional number who expressed interest during spawning season. The goal is to keep the council vibrant and ensure its continuation. She noted that each activity includes some level of community involvement and a tie in to education. The attachment reflects more activities and offers that came up during discussion, including Carol's willingness to consider a proposal for wayfinding signage in Fauntleroy Park that is tasteful and effective without costing nearly as much as Seattle Parks' standard.

Action item: Judy will further detail information about volunteer opportunities and share it with existing volunteers (including salmon watchers), post on our website, and reach out, as needed, through the West Seattle Blog.

8. Advocacy

Phil reported that, so far, the Seattle Watershed Alliance has spent a lot of time on administrative matters. Its most recent advocacy was about homeless encampments in parks and natural areas. Judy added that it is beginning to pay off in terms of communication among watersheds.

9. Education

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that we have eight tanks in West Seattle and a total of 28 across the city. Even with fewer participants, we could reasonably expect to have more than 1,000 fry to release in May. All teachers have access to webcam images so students can monitor a tank in real time.

Benthic report: Judy said Boren students are about ready with their report from October's sampling. The teacher has had just a brief time every week to be online with the students to move the project along.

Action item: Judy will let us all know the day/time for the students' Zoom report so as many as possible can be on to support them.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 11, 6:30 pm on Zoom

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #99, March 11, 2021, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

(Illness and being overwhelmed reduced the number present.)

1. Minutes

Minutes from January 14 were approved as distributed.

2. Treasury/fund reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$915.33 in our checking account. Judy reported a balance of \$17,886.52 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps, including a recent \$50 donation.

3. Seattle Parks

Carol reported the following:

- Trails supervisor Chukundi Salisbury recently received the John C. Little Spirit Award from Seattle Parks for his work with the Youth Green Corps.
- Jacobo Jimenez is still planning to get to an upgrade of the SW Cambridge St. entrance to Fauntleroy Park.
- The Adopt-a-Park program has a new manager who would like to come to one of our meetings to get acquainted.

Action item: Carol will look into scheduling the new Adopt-a-Park manager.

4. Special concern: volunteer contact with minors

Judy reported getting information about registering with Seattle Schools and others out to all our volunteers who have contact with children and youth. She chose to ask volunteers to acknowledge receive of the email, which all did, and now has a paper trail in case we need it. She will send the information to new recruits, including salmon watchers.

5. Project activity

Schoolhouse pocket garden: By email to Judy, Peggy reported that the garden is looking good, especially a couple of plants she thought had died. She will meet with the head teacher of the Urban Nature Preschool, which took over Taproot's space in the schoolhouse and will participate in maintaining the garden.

Volunteer engagement: Judy provided the following updates:

- Shannon Ninburg has embraced annual student benthic studies, including macroinvertebrate sampling in the fall and the stonefly exoskeleton count in the spring. She will run the student Q&A during egg deliveries in January and is looking into the possibility of adding one of our schools to the Duwamish Valley moss study.
- Judy got the Martin family (Carina, Ed, Estela, and Vivian) started on an update of our fecal (aka poop) study in Fauntleroy Park. They will do at least five surveys with an eye toward reporting next fall when Estela will be in fifth grade and Vivian in second at Arbor Heights.
- Mike Arizona will continue to organize work parties in Fauntleroy Park, will take over scheduling crew days for EarthCorps to maintain the Kilbourne ravine, and continue to be our point person with Seattle Parks on upgrading the SW Cambridge entrance to the park.

- Judy is keeping tabs on state planning to upgrade the ferry terminal and is relying on Frank Immel, chairman of the Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee, to pull her in as needed for advise about actions that could affect the creek.
- Mark Sears is keeping an eye on conditions at the mouth of the creek, especially logs under the ferry pier.
- Judy put out a call to salmon watchers for cleaning park kiosks and create wayfinding signage but had no takers. She is keeping an eye out for prospects.
- Pete is still looking for someone to help tie flies at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival, which seems on track to resume in October.

Out-migration monitoring: Dennis reported that smolt traps are to go in March 15, then he and Pete will monitor.

Release planning: Judy said she's expecting eight or so groups to release one way or another. She'll be contacting teachers about getting a date on the calendar so each school has the release bridge to itself. Dennis added that he learned from teacher John Revello that Gatewood has continued salmon study without having a tank and teachers are interested in releasing some of the fish Jack Lawless is rearing for us.

Action item: Judy will include Gatewood in her call to schedule releases.

Culvert replacements: Phil summarized State Fish and Wildlife's rejection of the church's request for a waiver of fish-passable requirements for replacing the church's portion of the SW California culvert. The church is still negotiating a plan for SPU's monitoring of the two holes its contractor punched in the existing culvert. Phil also summarized a request by SPU to list our watershed council as a partner on a grant proposal due March 15 for both culvert replacements. Considerable discussion ensued.

Decision: We will ask that the watershed council not be listed as a partner, given that both culverts are included in the proposal and that we do not agree that the upper creek is capable of supporting spawners.

Action item: Judy will draft a response and circulate it to council members in anticipation of emailing final wording to SPU tomorrow morning. She and Phil will decide if, given their work with the church's culvert committee, the response should come from Dennis.

Ferry terminal upgrade: Judy said that the state is now in full community-engagement mode and that she and Phil will view a presentation next week aimed at Fauntleroy, Vashon, and Southworth. If all goes according to plan, construction would likely start in 2023.

7. Education

Benthic study: Judy reported having several council members participate in a Zoom report about benthic sampling by students from Boren STEM. Because of limited access to students, the teacher had one small group of middle-school students do the sampling last fall and another small group of younger students do the analysis and PowerPoint report. The latter group will be back the end of this month for the annual exoskeleton count. The written report provided by the teacher itemized several questions, which Judy circulated to compile our answers for to the students.

Pete said he is looking into how best to preserve nymphs so that they don't lose their color. He wants to be able to show them to students during salmon releases.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that SPU has initiated a "Creek of the Week" video to show city creeks to students in the program. Carkeek was the first and they are likely to be monthly, not weekly. Longfellow will be next, followed by Fauntleroy. Judy plans to get video of the upcoming exoskeleton count and the checking of a smolt trap, plus Phil has archive video that could be helpful.

8. In the media

Dennis had no coverage to report.

9. Advocacy

Fish traps: Dennis summarized a request just made by the Wild Fish Conservancy to support an on-line petition to State Fish and Wildlife to legalize use of fish traps that are more sustainable than gill netting. The traps allow commercial fishers to avoid harming by-catch, including fish that are not legal to take.

Decision: We will support legalizing of this sustainable method of commercial fishing.

Action item: Dennis will sign the on-line petition on behalf of our council.

Seattle Watershed Alliance: Phil reported that the alliance has added an hour-long session between business meetings to get acquainted with each watershed in the city, including current concerns. He and Judy will put together a presentation about Fauntleroy, likely for late spring.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 13, 6:30 pm on Zoom

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #100, May 11, 2021, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Steev Ward

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

1. Minutes

Minutes from March were approved as distributed.

2. Treasury/fund reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$915.35 in our checking account. Judy reported a balance of \$19,886.52 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps.

3. Seattle Parks

Carol reported that she had talked with Jacobo Jimenez and he's still trying to coordinate with street work planned at the Cambridge Street entrance to Fauntleroy Park, which will affect the design of a restored.

Pete mentioned that the fell log at the release bridge needs to be cut further back so kids don't try to ride it.

Action item: Carol will have a look.

Dennis and Pete thanked Carol for getting gravel laid to keep the release slope safe for kids.

Judy said she is fostering native plants donated by a church member for Mike to put in this fall. She also has five shore pines that need a home.

Action item: Carol will ask if the Green Seattle Partnership can use the shore pines.

4. Project activity

Out-migration monitoring: Dennis reported 47 smolts to saltwater as of this afternoon. April was the most active. Pete added that the traps have held up well.

Action item: Dennis and Steev will decide when to remove the traps, after May 27.

School releases: Dennis noted that every one has been different but that he has been encouraged to see kids back on the creek. The sixth release will be tomorrow. We've had 66 students and, because of die-offs, only about 300 fry coming from the schools; the rest have been from Jack Lawless. Judy said she was impressed that our release team could step in to help veteran salmon teacher Shannon Crowley at Sanislo, who has had a child at home with COVID and is on bed rest for a herniated disc. Dennis and Pete have rallied to fetch her fish from the school building and run a Saturday release for family groups.

Discussion ensued about releasing the 150 or so fry that Jack still has. Teacher Jeannie Revello at Gatewood is a possibility.

Action item: Judy will work on identifying a class or group to release the remaining fry into the lower creek.

Fecal study and campaign: Judy reported that Estela and Vivian, our young fecal researchers, completed their second count along the study trail and recommended that we try to education people who adopted dogs over the pandemic about why scooping is important. As seen in prior iterations of this study, many deposits are near the Barton Street entrance, where owners apparently release their dogs to run for awhile. She worked with the girls and their father, Eddie Martin, on a "Watch Your Step" campaign to encourage veteran dog owners to talk with newcomers. The focal point will be rain-resistant

paper flags on wooden skewers that the girls will stick in the deposits they find in late May, which should create an eye-catching visual. She will alert the *West Seattle Blog* for a photo and interview with the girls. They will pull the flags after two weeks. Peggy Cummings has agreed to put up laminated signs from the campaign at bag dispensers at park entrances.

Dennis added that, when checking the smolt trap in Fenton Glen, he has been seeing more dogs on leashes than he remembers in years past.

Schoolhouse pocket garden: Peggy reported in writing that she contacted the director of the new nature preschool about meeting on site with students and did not receive a reply. Judy has asked Denise Wallace, the property manager, to intercede in order to connect the two. Peggy also reported that she and Mike Arizona had been monitoring the plants, all of which appear healthy, and that she will arrange with Denise to water this summer.

Volunteer engagement: Peggy wrote that she plans to update the nature walk soon so that Judy can begin updating our watershed brochure.

Culvert replacements: Phil reported that the church has been fully engaged in emphasizing its needs in the face of the city's estimated \$7 million cost to the church for the replacement culvert as designed. The church has been getting expert legal advice and succeeded in getting Seattle Public Utilities to postpone community outreach that suggested the church is a partner on the project. In addition to cost, the church is pushing back on having a deep trench across its parking lot to enable daylighting of the creek as much as 30' below. Phil said a lot of ground needs to be covered before any agreement is within view. Dennis noted that he has not talked with anyone in the community who is supportive of what the city proposes.

Ferry terminal upgrade: Judy announced that Washington State Ferries selected her to be on the citizens advisory group to help shape project specifications. The group will include representatives from all three communities; the number from Fauntleroy is not yet known. Pete added that he has been surprised that the creek level has continued about the same year round - that it is anything but ephemeral.

5. Stewardship/habitat

Forest steward report: Peggy reported in writing that she has been keeping our watershed brochure in the racks at entry kiosks and that dog walkers have been keeping bag dispensers well supplied.

Logs at mouth: Dennis said that the logjam at the mouth of the creek is already blocking. He arranged for habitat biologist Larry Fisher from State Fish and Wildlife to come out on May 27 to meet on site with him, Mike Dey, Chuck Sawyer, and Mark Sears to discuss options in order to be ready for spawning season. Judy noted that one feature of a rebuilt terminal will be fewer pilings to trap drift logs at the mouth.

Education: Judy said that the annual exoskeleton count, by Boren STEM students, went well and that abundance and size were much the same as last year. Dennis added that he's seeing a lot of bugs flying around the creek; Pete noted fat mayflies to show kids at the release bridge.

7. Outreach

Dennis reported the *West Seattle Blog's* coverage of our second release, which included a photo from the first. He and Judy plan a "fish wrap" summary for the *Blog* when releasing and smolt trapping are over for the year.

8. Advocacy

Steelhead net pens: Dennis reported that the Wild Fish Conservancy recently had an online petition against allowing Cooke Seafood to rear steelhead in the in-water pens is used for salmon before the

state shut them down. He signed the petition and, after surveying executive-committee members, Judy signed for the watershed council.

Seattle Watershed Alliance: Phil reported that the group has been having bi-monthly meetings and that many topics have led to highly detailed discussions marginally pertinent to this watershed. The first extra meeting to profile creek watersheds was interesting and we are supposed to be up for the next one. Judy started working on a presentation then got drawn away. Dennis offered to give a hand and suggested that the presentation emphasize the wildness of the park that is the centerpiece of our watershed.

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 9, 6:30 pm

Judy said the church expects to be open by then, giving us the option of meeting back in the library. Given the season and the fact that our council turns 20 in September, she offered that we could meet instead on the Pickens/Sweetland patio and tip a glass. Ideas for observing the anniversary most welcome!

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #101, Sept. 9, 2021, Pickens/Sweetland Patio

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Kersti Muul

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Guests: Kathy Minsch; Carine, Eddie, Estela, and Vivian Martin; Tracy Record (*West Seattle Blog*)

Prior to the meeting, we honored Kathy for her 30+ years working on Puget Sound water quality, including being instrumental in the founding of our council 20 years ago.

1. Minutes

Minutes from May were approved as distributed.

2. Treasury/fund reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$915.35 in our checking account. Judy reported a balance of \$17,521.62 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps; it reflects expenditures so far this year of \$4,146.90.

3. Fecal-study report

Estela and Vivian Martin presented their report of this 2021 edition of our fecal study in Fauntleroy Park, first done in 2008. Backed by a PowerPoint display, Estela reviewed their methodology and findings, and Vivian pointed out where dog droppings were most prevalent over the course of their study (near the park entrance). They did six monthly surveys, March through August. At the midpoint they identified each dropping with a "Watch Your Step" paper flag to encourage park users to speak to dog walkers who were not scooping. That aspect netted coverage of the study on the *West Seattle Blog*.

Estela and Vivian's recommendations were "big picture" suggestions for the council, including

- Update the watershed website more frequently.
- Offer ways to various ways (website, social media) to engage with the watershed and promote on park signs.
- Consider having a digital marketing volunteer (i.e., UW intern for school credit).
- Employ the *West Seattle Blog* and digital tools to recruit volunteers, then create an email list and use it to keep them engaged.
- Use creative ways to educate, including a QR code and eco-friendly signage to explain why pet waste is bad.
- Update the watershed brochure and refresh park kiosks.
- Involve more teachers and students in Salmon in the Schools.
- Consider seeking grants to keep the park clean.
- Share findings of this study and keep it going.

Discussion ensued with congratulatory statements, support for the girls' conclusion about why most droppings were near the park entrance, and thanks for all the suggestions. The girls left behind a copy of their presentation, each survey sheet, and the large map showing all dropping locations. They each took home a certificate of appreciation and invitation to come back during spawning season.

4. Seattle Parks

Carol reported the following:

- Construction at Lowman Beach Park has started to replace the derelict seawall and is expected to start this fall on an updated south play area.
- The Green Seattle Partnership is responsible for maintenance of city property in the Kilbourne ravine.

Action item: Peggy will alert GSP to the need for maintenance as the city park and undeveloped right-of-way inn the ravine have become overgrown.

- Staff are still committed to solving the drainage problem at the SW Cambridge Street entrance to Fauntleroy Park but have been sidetracked by other work. She hopes to have a positive update by our November meeting. She plans to put cautionary signage at this entrance so that park users are aware of treacherous conditions there.

5. Project activity

Ferry trestle & transfer span replacement planning: Judy reported that she is a member of the project's 23-member community advisory group, including 10 from West Seattle. After two meetings, she said that the state is following a public-engagement template and seems to be jumping to solutions before hearing what advisers define as problems. She is focusing on environmental concerns, especially affecting the creek and nearshore habitat. Other group members who are veterans of this process are focusing on such base concerns as efficiency of ticketing vehicles, which affects terminal size. The Fauntleroy Community Association is being proactive, especially about holding the ferry system to the project's scope of work (planning has already veered into aspects other than trestle and transfer-span replacement). She encouraged council members to sign up for email updates as planning unfolds.

Schoolhouse pocket garden: Peggy reported that our native-plant demonstration garden at the east end of the Kilbourne ravine is struggling but surviving. She plans to replace a couple of plants this fall. Schoolhouse property manager Denise Wallace has helped with weeding and Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering is supplying water. So far, the site has not been vandalized. Preschool children in the building will help with maintenance once Peggy has secured additional fencing to keep them away from the steep slope on the ravine side.

Self-guided nature walk update: Peggy reported that she found just a couple of things to update. Given that this brochure is heavily used and likely tossed when people leave the park, she advised that we continue publishing it in black and white, not color.

Action item: Judy will let Peggy know when fresh copies are ready.

Tree walk: Peggy reported that she's looking into creating a tree walk in Fauntleroy Park. Tree Ambassadors (a city program) publishes such walks online and would welcome this addition to its catalog. She is in touch with Michael Oxman, an Arbor Heights resident with a strong interest in trees; he may be interested in creating the walk or in helping.

Guided walks in park: Kersti shared several thoughts about this new project, especially her interest in creating a walk about birdlife in Fauntleroy Park. Instead of simply looking for birds, she wants it to be diverse and include how birds and habitat interact. Because of COVID restrictions, she hasn't yet gotten beyond the thinking stage.

Outreach to prospective volunteers: Judy reported that she was able to post a fresh list of volunteer opportunities at the fish-ladder viewpoint but, because of the state of our website, it's not yet posted there. Dennis shared recent frustrations trying to interest new people in taking on a project or joining the council. While finding volunteers for specific jobs is doable, finding volunteers to coordinate over time continues to be a major challenge.

Action item: Judy will share our list of volunteer opportunities with Tracy for publication on the West Seattle Blog in conjunction with our annual call for salmon watchers.

6. Stewardship/habitat

Planning for spawning season: Judy reported that we have a state permit to break up logjams near the creek mouth if needed for spawner access. Dennis said that Mark Sears is monitoring the situation and will decide if/when to use the permit.

Action item: Dennis will schedule logjam work parties and volunteers as needed so that spawners have access to the creek starting about Oct. 15.

Action item: Judy will check tides and the Seahawks' schedule to pick a date for our annual salmon drumming.

Action item: Phil will clean out weirs in the fish ladder to ensure that spawners can get through.

Forest steward report: Peggy thanked Carol for seeing that sections of the boardwalk in Fautleroy Park were upgraded. She learned that we need to recruit our own candidate to fill the forest-steward vacancy for the park and she did not have time to scout prospects before the upcoming training class filled. She welcomed suggestions of people who might be interested. She noted that kiosks at Barton Street and at 97th still need updating; maps and bird photos have faded. Judy said this project is on our list of volunteer opportunities.

Action item: Peggy and Judy will see if they have fresh copies of the map; if not, Judy will see if Chris Nack can make more. Peggy will print fresh bird photos.

Kilbourne ravine maintenance: Judy said that EarthCorps has advised three crew days this calendar year, given that we were able to schedule only one last year because of the pandemic. Peggy agreed that three are needed if we are to keep invasives at bay while conifers grow. Carol noted that the Green Seattle Partnership is responsible for maintaining the overgrown city portion of the ravine.

Action item: Peggy will request that GSP schedule maintenance in the ravine.

7. Outreach

In the media: Dennis reported that the Sept. 1 issue of *Neighbors* had an article about our 20th anniversary, plus a call for salmon watchers.

Website update: In writing, Chris asked for council authorization to spend approximately \$100 on new software. She expects to continue free hosting from Dwight Gaut and to integrate new images and video. She plans to use basically the same content and organization as we've had and emphasized that now is the time to send her feedback about the menu or organization. She hopes to have the site rebuilt by the end of January.

Decision: We will reimburse Chris the cost of new software, estimated at about \$100.

8. Education

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that 66 schools across the city will be participating this term. The steering committee is planning an online workshop for teachers and tank volunteers, augmented by a webinar to have questions addressed. He also said that Westside will be rejoining the program here and that Fairmount Park will likely be rejoining next term after many years away.

Judy added that, thanks to another member of the Seattle Watershed Alliance, they learned of a \$1M budget line item for the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer a two-year contract to expand Salmon in the Schools across the state. Existing programs knew nothing of this plan. Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group has won at least part of the contract, hired an educator, and asked to focus on schools in south King County.

Benthic sampling: Judy noted that Shannon Ninburg will be in charge of the annual sampling for macroinvertebrates by students from Louisa Boren STEM.

Action item: Judy will coordinate with Shannon as needed for sampling in mid October.

9. Advocacy

Judy reported that, thanks to the Seattle Watershed Alliance, she learned that two other watersheds in the city are also in the throes of culvert-replacement talks with the city. She sees strong potential for coordinated communication with the state about urban implications of its one-size-fits-all insistence that replacements be fish passable.

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #102, Nov. 11, 2021, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack, Steev Ward

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Guests: Raegan Goff

1. Minutes

Minutes from September were approved as distributed.

2. Treasury/fund reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$907.35 in our checking account. Judy reported that 2021 donations to date to our stewardship fund have totaled \$4,175. Our balance is \$17,521.62, with an EarthCorps bill coming soon for yesterday's crew day in the Kilbourne ravine.

3. Project activity

Volunteer water-quality monitoring: Raegan explained the monitoring she'll be doing here as part of Global Watershed Watchers, a national program run locally by the SnoKing Watershed Council. The assignment will enable her to keep her hand in environmental science. In addition to water sampling, she'll be checking aquatic insects and microbiology. She may also be involved in the DNA sampling that SnoKing hopes to try as a way to distinguish among sources of fecal coliform. She will need to check out a test kit from Kenmore, which could become a logistics problem pending repair of the West Seattle high bridge; we might need to help get her a dedicated kit. Pete expressed his interest in getting involved.

Action item: Pete will establish email communication with Raegan.

Salmon watch: Dennis reported the arrival of our first spawner on Oct. 22 and we've had seven to date, at least one of which had its adipose fin (meaning it could have originated here). Most fish were singles but they may have included a spawning pair. Because of especially high tides, the watch will continue through Nov. 18. He singled out Mark Sears for his exceptional dedication to checking that the route from the cove to the creek stayed open through drift logs.

Fauntleroy Park kiosks: Peggy reported that, thanks to Chris's copying services, she now has two fresh maps to post in park kiosks when the weather permits. She also plans to sort through what's there and clean as needed.

Ferry terminal project: Judy reported that the most recent meeting of the community advisory group (of which she is a member) was to refine a second draft of the project's needs and goals statement. She said she started the process with pessimism that the ferry system would fully value citizen comments but was surprised to see the many positive changes staff made to the statement based on public input. She noted that one Fauntleroy member is quite good at understanding how the state schedules and what new technology could, if adopted, aid in getting boats full and under way on time. This is a particular area of concern as the state has expressed interest in enlarging the trestle to accommodate more vehicles, further shading nearshore habitat. The advisory group will meet again in early December.

Schoolhouse pocket garden: Peggy reported that more plants have survived than originally thought. She plans to put in needed replacements by the end of the month. She said the fence also needs repair and the plants could benefit from mulch. She is hopeful that children from the preschool in the schoolhouse or elsewhere might begin helping with maintenance in the spring. Carol announced that she has wooden fencing and will send mulch along with the fencing delivery.

Tree walk in the park: Peggy said she has made helpful contacts and expects to work with another volunteer on this project come spring.

4. Seattle Parks

Cambridge Street entrance: Carol reported that all the ducks are in a row to make the entrance safer and more easily used. Jacobo Jimenez got an opportunity to work with planners, which put the project on hold, but he expects to be back on trails soon in some capacity, whether on the ground or overseeing. She declared it will get done!

2022 budget: Carol said her crew has been down to about 60% of normal but that she expects staffing to improve in the new year.

New crew chief: As Carol will be retiring next month, we asked about her replacement. She said that Seattle Parks is working to fill multiple crew-chief positions, which should result in a good fit. Peggy was especially eloquent in expressing our appreciation for Carol's dedication over many years to area parks in general and to Fauntleroy Park in particular. We asked her to provide dates in early January when we could take her to lunch to celebrate what she has meant to this watershed and wish her well.

5. Stewardship/habitat

Forest steward report: Peggy said that park trails have been muddy with all the rain but that maintenance this past summer is paying off. Dog walkers are keeping our bag dispensers full and visitors keep taking our brochure from kiosks. Pete raised a question about English ivy's infesting the riparian corridor (undeveloped city right-of-way) in the lower creek up towards 45th Ave. SW. Others noted that the ivy is coming down slopes on private property and, even if it could be eradicated, erosion would become a major concern.

Kilbourne ravine maintenance: Judy said that an EarthCorps crew had been in the ravine yesterday to check the status of restoration and add about 50 native plants where deemed necessary. She expressed gratitude that Mike Arizona had continued his involvement by coordinating the day.

6. Outreach

In the media: Dennis reported excellent coverage by the *West Seattle Blog* of our Oct. 10 drumming and announcement of our Oct. 28 open creek (which drew 45 visitors). He and Judy will compose our annual fish-wrap story. Judy said she plans to run a photo of the work in Kilbourne in the Dec. 1 community newsletter, primarily to promote our stewardship fund; she will also write about spawning season.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy reported that she had updated our list of opportunities to hand out during the open creek and was pleasantly surprised that most people took the flyer. She inserted leftover flyers in copies of our watershed brochure available at the fish-ladder viewpoint. Peggy offered to do the same for the brochures she puts in park kiosks and also post the list in the kiosks.

Action item: Judy will make copies of the list for inserting and for posting and alert Peggy when they're ready.

Raegan called on her experience as a volunteer coordinator to note that using our website to make volunteering easy could do a lot. Chris reported that she is about 65% finished with a major update of our site and can easily give volunteering more prominence with a tab and/or link from the home page.

7. Education

Student benthic sampling: Judy reported that Shannon Ninburg had done a great job leading fourth graders from Boren STEM in sampling upper- and lower-creek sites on Oct. 23. Eight students and a like number of parents participated. For the first time, two small egg sacs were in the lower sample, as was what may have been a riffle beetle. Abundance was somewhat more than in 2020, as was diversity.

Once the teacher okays the draft report, Judy will forward to relevant scientists with Seattle Public Utilities.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that he's waiting for permits from State Fish and Wildlife so that schools can have their eggs in early January. He also said that the program recently ran its annual teacher training using a video on YouTube, followed by a Zoom Q&A session. Westside has rejoined the program for 2022 and West Seattle and Highland Park elementaries will be on the sideline.

Next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 13, 6:30 pm on Zoom