

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #103, January 13, 2022, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack,  
Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland  
Seattle Parks: Kristy Darcy  
Water-quality volunteer: Raegan Goff

**1. Minutes**

Minutes from November were approved as distributed.

**2. Treasury/fund reports**

Dennis reported a balance of \$917.35 in our checking account. Judy reported a year-end balance in our stewardship fund of \$15,180.99.

**3. Project activity**

Salmon watch: Dennis reported that our final count of coho spawners was 244 - the second best year since official counting began in 1999. Public interest (400 visitors) was the highest ever and the watch was the longest (Oct. 10-Nov. 28). He hasn't seen home hatch yet but will keep looking. Next up is installation of smolt traps by March 15.

Ivy infestation: Judy said that salmon watchers who ventured up towards 45th Ave. SW reported a substantial area of English ivy adjacent to and in the narrow channel, raising concerns about potential flooding and/or fish blockage. She forwarded photos taken by Mark Sears to the team at Seattle Public Utilities working on replacement of the 45th culvert, asking if the project might include eradication of the ivy. Team leader Betsy Lyons suggested a workaround with project staff and creek volunteers. Judy forwarded contact information to Dennis, who will schedule the look-see for March.

Website update and activity: Chris shared a sampling of pages on our updated site, noting that administration is now much easier. Feedback from council members was very positive and appreciative. Her work included setting up an Instagram page and reactivating our Facebook page in case we have someone eager to work social media. She shared a number of ways to assess website usage in 2021, with these highlights:

- 85% of users were from the U.S.
- The average viewing session was 2.23 minutes.
- The park map received the most visitors, followed by "about the creek."
- Searching, clicking on a referral, and going directly to the site each generated about a third of visits.

This table reflects usage over time. Note that, starting in 2016, teachers were no longer coming to our website for Salmon in the Schools materials.

**Fauntleroy Watershed Website Statistics**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Users</b>						968	1,002	749	878	849
<b>Sessions</b>	955	1,153	3,159	2,710	1,904	1,187	1,187	1,048	1,115	1,123
<b>Page Views</b>	3,344	3,130	7,320	4,681	3,915	2,531	2,368	1,805	2,188	2,632
<b>Minutes</b>	0.12	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.14	0.10
<b>New Visitors</b>	685	886	2,543	2,329	1,544	955	995	74	873	847
<b>WS Blog Referrals</b>						76	127	24		276
<b>Social Media Referrals</b>						2	10	14		6

Ferry project: Judy reported that the community advisory group of which she is a member had marched through revisions to the statement of need for updating the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal. The group will soon launch into commenting on the criteria to be used to screen design features, including environmental considerations. She noted the intensity of this process and that the ferry system is doing a good job managing it.

Volunteer water testing: Raegan reported that she will be getting her gear from the project coordinator (SnoKing Watershed Council) on Jan. 22 and will do her first round of testing the following weekend. She will be sharing her data with us so we can consider any actions it might suggest.

**Action item: Raegan will coordinate her sampling with Pete.**

#### **4. Seattle Parks**

Kristy introduced herself as the acting crew chief for Parks' southwest district and said she is excited to be part of what our council does. She has already assessed needs in Fauntleroy Park, including bridges and boardwalks. Her crew recently worked on several downed trees that were blocking trails. Phil asked that she let him know about any trees of concern that her crew sees on Fauntleroy Church property so the church can deal with them before they become hazards. She said she was not familiar with our concern about the structural integrity of the big bridge but will check what the department's engineer advised. Dennis said that the abandoned concrete pipe there is now fully covered by sediment.

#### **5. Stewardship/habitat**

Forest steward report: Peggy reported that the weather has limited her visits to the park but she did note that the trails are in great shape, as is mesh on the boardwalks. She advised Kristy that some supporting boards on the wetland boardwalk may need replacing.

Kristy announced that she had just received notification of a new forest steward assigned to Fauntleroy Park, including an initial work plan. Peggy had not heard this good news and will contact the Green Seattle Partnership for details.

Peggy said she plans to replace dead plants in our demonstration garden by the schoolhouse in March.

Kilbourne ravine: Judy reported that she had met this afternoon with EarthCorps' outgoing and incoming coordinator of maintenance work in the ravine. They were out to anticipate the two crew days planned in 2022. She asked Kristy about our request for maintenance of the Kilbourne Park section of the ravine. Peggy explained that our primary concern is the morning glory near the bus stop.

**Action item: Kristy will create and assign a work order if it hasn't been done.**

#### **6. Outreach**

2021 annual report: Judy said she's near having a full draft and plans to ask Dennis and Peggy to review it and Chris to check the website section. She noted that we have been blessed with a lot of photos from the year. She will be updating our distribution list so that the report goes to everyone associated with the creek and park, including elected officials.

In the media: Dennis reported excellent coverage of spawning season by the *West Seattle Blog*, including invitations to the public, spawner counts, and our wrap article. *Neighbors*, the community newsletter, also covered the season.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy said that spawning season generated several prospects and that she and Dennis will be meeting with at least two once the omicron variant of COVID-19 wanes. In response to a question, she said that she has not kept track of volunteer hours since Seattle Parks stopped asking for them. Raegan strongly advised that we resume.

**Action item: Kristy will connect Judy with the new volunteer coordinator at Seattle Parks.**

***Action item: Judy will begin tapping Raegan's experience with volunteer recruitment.***

## **7. Education**

Phil reported early egg distribution right before winter break because the hatchery thought they would be hatching soon. They did so the first week of January at our seven elementaries, three preschools, and Jack Lawless's tank. He said that Sanislo lost nearly all its alevin because the chiller somehow got turned off. He plans to replace them with some of Jack's 650 fish as soon as they develop into fry that can withstand being transported.

**Next meeting: Thursday, March 10, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #104, March 10, 2022, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Steev Ward, Dennis Hinton, Chris Nack, Judy Pickens (scribe)

Forest steward: Charlotte Linton

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Kristy Darcy

Water-quality volunteer: Raegan Goff

New volunteers: Tim Wulfekuhle, Signe Porteshawver

**1. Treasury/fund reports**

Dennis reported that we have \$907.35 in our checking account. Judy reported that we have \$15,180.99 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps. She now has more visibility on who is donating what and when so that we can send thank-you notes. Not learning until months later about a \$1,100 donation last year from stylists at Treo Organic Salon prompted her request of EarthCorps staff.

**2. Seattle Parks**

Kristy reported the following:

- She has been beefing up staffing for the summer.
- She has asked staff to monitor trails in anticipation of increased usage.
- The hiring of a permanent crew chief is in process (she has applied).

Judy mentioned an infestation of wild clematis in the park where it juts out onto SW Barton; she said it looks too challenging for a volunteer.

***Action item: Kristy will see that it's removed.***

**3. Stewardship/habitat**

Forest stewards' report: Charlotte reported that she and veteran forest steward Peggy Cummings cleaned and refreshed the kiosk at the SW 97th Street entrance to the park. She has also done a little ivy removal.

***Action item: Kristy will see that the Plexiglas on the SW Barton Street kiosk is replaced.***

In Peggy's absence, Judy reported the following:

- Peggy successfully snagged a wild clematis vine on a small fir tree at the east end of the Kilbourne ravine.
- Peggy and new volunteer Rosalie Miller will be weeding our native-plant demonstration garden adjacent to the schoolhouse and replacing plants that did not survive.

Beaver sighting: Dennis reported that a third beaver has appeared near the mouth of the creek. Neighbor Mike Dey is keeping an eye out for potential damming activity that could require relocating the critter to prevent flooding.

Ivy infestation: Judy will be talking with Betsy Lyons at SPU next week to arrange a visit to the site, which is in city undeveloped right-of-way. If the area will not be addressed when the city replaces its culvert under 45th Ave. SW, we will seek advice from the city about how to keep the vines from impacting fish passage.

#### **4. Project activity**

Smolt monitoring: Steev will have our two traps installed by March 15. Dennis and Pete will be joined by new volunteers Gordon Thomas, Tim Wulfekuhle, and Signe Porteshawver to monitor the traps at least twice daily until mid to late May.

**Action item: Dennis will arrange an orientation for new monitoring volunteers.**

Home hatch: Dennis saw the first fry from fall spawning on Feb. 19, the exact date that Phil had predicted. Each time he's had a look, the number seems to have doubled.

Water testing: Raegan reported the following:

- Water quality is looking good, based on data from January and February sampling.
- The national database (Global Watershed Watchers) has had some difficulty, such that she and other local testers may have to create their own temporary database.
- Water temperature has been running 6° - 8° C. (42° - 46° F).
- Pete will be joining her for March sampling.
- She plans to take advantage of flow-rate training that the SnoKing Watershed Council (the local coordinator) will be offering.

**Action item: Raegan will begin emailing Judy her data sheets.**

**Action item: Raegan will share flow-rate methodology with Phil.**

Ferry terminal planning: Judy reported that the Community Advisory Group's workload is picking up as they attempt to use the state's planning process. The group is currently defining criteria for evaluating location and major features. So far, time has been spent on what she sees as pie-in-the-sky ideas that will never fly. All rough concepts to date have included a large over-water gangway for passengers to load directly onto the upper level of ferries; it would further shade nearshore habitat. She advised those interested to read meeting reports on the *West Seattle Blog*.

#### **5. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis noted that the *West Seattle Blog* published text and video about home hatch and the March issue of *Neighbors* (Fauntleroy's community newsletter) included an article about Charlotte as our new forest steward. He heard complimentary comments about our 2021 annual report issued in January.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy and Dennis itemized an impressive list of new and prospective volunteers. They have been hosting tea-and-biscotti get-togethers on her patio (as weather permits) to get acquainted and identify where newcomers might best contribute.

#### **6. Education**

Release scheduling: Judy has May dates for all but one elementary school and will invite preschools to pick theirs starting on Monday. The schedule gives release volunteers long weekends; otherwise, options from which teachers choose are those of a normal year (as opposed to a COVID-limited year).

Release team: Volunteers Shannon Ninburg (habitat exploration), Pete (aquatic insects/security), and Dennis (fish dipping) are set, and Tom Trulin (our new volunteer photographer) has offered to help as needed. Judy reminded all who aren't release regulars to let her know if they want to come along as she must notify teachers in advance.

Site preparation: In anticipation of release season,

**Action item: Dennis will ask hydrologist Steve Winter to check creek flow at the release site.**

**Action item: Dennis will alert Kristy to any maintenance needed at the release site.**

**Action item: Chris will check the seep in the alley and alert Judy if it needs attention to keep students dry/clean when they exit the park.**

Exoskeleton count: Judy said that Shannon is working with a teacher at Boren to schedule this annual count of stonefly exoskeletons in the lower creek, possibly on April 8. Students count and measure exoskeletons on trees, bridges, fences, and the ground near the channel and compare to prior years. Although simple, it has all the elements of scientific research, including oral and written reports.

**Action item: Judy will let Tim know the date so he can ensure that paths along the channel will be safe for students.**

## **7. Advocacy**

Judy reported commenting for herself and (with concurrence from Dennis and Peggy) for the watershed council about state requirements when ferry terminals are cleaned or painted. State Ecology is updating what it requires in order to limit introduction of toxic chemicals into nearshore habitat.

## **8. Meetings**

We decided to meet on Zoom in May, then take another reading about resuming in-person meetings.

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 12, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #105, May 12, 2022, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Tom Trulin, Dennis Hinton, Rosalie Miller, Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Kristy Darcy

We opened the meeting by congratulating Kristy on her promotion to crew chief for Seattle Parks' southwest district. Judy read a card from retired crew chief Carol Baker, thanking us for hosting her at lunch and for a positive 15-year relationship; she offered to help as a civilian neighbor however she can.

**1. March minutes**

Approved as circulated.

**2. Treasury/fund reports**

Dennis reported \$907.35 in our checking account at Washington Federal.

Judy reported \$17,180.99 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps, up \$2,000 from last time.

**3. Seattle Parks**

Kristy reported the following:

- She has been hiring and will be hiring more to bring the crew up to about 35 people.
- The wild clematis growing high along SW Barton in Fauntleroy Park has been cut from the ground; will dig when can get to it through a blackberry thicket.
- A neighbor on 97th St. SW alerted her to turf there in need of renovation; she is considering the best course of action.
- A new staff person has Fauntleroy and Kilbourne parks on his maintenance route (mowing, litter, garbage, etc.). Two gardeners do more skilled work in Fauntleroy Park as needed.

Pete noted that the trail from the Barton St. entrance to the release bridge is getting overgrown with salmonberry.

***Action item: Kristy will ask a gardener to prune.***

**4. Education**

Salmon releases: Dennis reported that our volunteer team has staffed six to date, with 220 kids releasing about 650 fry. All have gone well. Tom has joined the team to monitor safety on the release bridge and take photos/videos.

Community release: Judy raised the question of our hosting a community release with the fry that Jack Lawless will have left at month's end. Dennis and Tom were all for it (Pete will be away fishing). Possible dates are Saturday, June 4, or Sunday, June 5. Area residents will be invited to stop by the release bridge roughly noon to 3:00.

***Action item: Pete will check with Jack about how many fry he expects to have available.***

***Action item: Dennis will settle on the day/time.***

***Action item: Judy will publicize; only high wind will cancel.***

***Action item: Tom will fetch the fish from Jack.***

## **5. Stewardship/habitat**

Native-plant garden: Having no forest-steward report, Judy raised an offer by the Martin family (of poop-study fame) to volunteer again in some way. She checked with Peggy Cummings about their weeding the little native-plant demonstration garden and Peggy agreed; having it ready for replacement plants and more mulch will be helpful.

**Action item: Judy will invite the family to take on the project.**

**Action item: Kristy will arrange for mulch when timely.**

Vegetation concerns: Judy reported that plans are in motion to address not only the ivy infestation in the creek channel near 45th Ave. SW but also other areas of concern in the system. Betsy Lyons with Seattle Public Utility will be scheduling an online meeting with the right specialists. Her colleague, Shasta McKinley, made a site visit led by Mark Sears and Dennis for a first-hand look. Judy queried those in the know about concerns elsewhere and has relayed that information to Betsy. The most concerning area is the reach to the beach; neighbors expect the channel will be clogged again by fall after aggressive plants have another summer's growth.

## **6. Outreach**

Tree walk in Fauntleroy Park: Prior to the meeting, Judy distributed a proposal from new volunteer Lindsey Conrad (unable to attend), who has an interest in botany and experience in Colorado with outdoor education. Lindsey proposed creating a tree walk in the downloadable format used by the city's Tree Ambassador program. She has referred to the park's vegetation management plan to begin to locate trees of interest along established trails and welcomes others to get involved. Had her proposal been sentient, we would have given it a standing ovation!

Kristy offered to share specimens that tree crews have noted in the park. She also referred Lindsey to the "I Naturalist" (*inaturalist.org*) app to aid in plant identification. Signage to identify the trees was suggested, depending on what Seattle Parks will allow.

**Action item: Judy will connect Lindsey and Peggy, whose interest and experience in the park as a forest steward will be helpful.**

**Action item: Kristy will look into the feasibility and form of signage to identify trees on the walk.**

In the media: Dennis reported excellent coverage of our second school release (Cove preschool) on the *West Seattle Blog*. He also noted the *Blog's* coverage of our annual count of stonefly exoskeletons by Louisa Boren students in late March.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy said she had a query this week from another prospective volunteer and will be arranging an outdoor get-acquainted conversation. She noted that Denise Wulfekuhle helped with the first of three release lunches and was great. Denise will be back for the third lunch and her husband, Tim, will help with the second. Tom is already a fixture on salmon releases and as a smolt-trap monitor. Rosalie said that, once she's over COVID and in town, she will be ready to plug in, likely in the park. Judy raised the idea of nature-walk opportunities for preschools as they are very able to come on field trips. Dennis opined that he is greatly encouraged by the level of interest.

## **7. Project activity**

Smolt monitoring: Dennis noted that he and other volunteers have been monitoring Steev Ward's two traps since mid March and that the number is down (11 to date). Only two have come through the upper trap from the park - evidence that juveniles are using the entire system. Close monitoring has been required because of debris clogging the traps after rains. He said the spawning reach is full of very active home-hatch fry.

Water testing: In writing, Raegan Goff reported that her monthly testing in the upper and lower creek has been going well. Because of difficulties with the official database (through the Sno-King Council), she is



temporarily using Excel to track her data. She plans to provide the council with quarterly updates and file an official report at the end of the calendar year. She invited anyone interested to email her (*r.mg.83@hotmail.com*) to help in August when she will monitor for aquatic insects.

Ferry-terminal planning: Judy reported that the state has decided to leave the ferry terminal in Fauntleroy Cove and is exploring several options, including two involving enlargement over nearshore habitat. The Fauntleroy Community Association is pushing for electronic ticketing that would negate the need for a larger dock. The association will publish details about its position in its June 1 community newsletter and host an in-person public meeting when timely. Washington State Ferries will host online meetings on May 24 (noon-2:00) and May 25 (6-7:30).

Church culvert: Phil reported considerable progress by the church's task force over the past year. It has narrowed design options to two and recently resumed planning with Seattle Public Utilities. A grant proposal is in the works for comprehensive analysis of the favored design, and informational meetings for the congregation will happen later this month.

**Decision: We will submit a letter of support for the grant proposal; Dennis will sign.**

Garden tour grant: Judy reported that we have been invited to apply for another grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour, which is to resume this summer after a two-year COVID hiatus. Our prior grant (for \$4,000) was for the native-plant demonstration garden and for our stewardship fund. The tour committee likes to see proposals that "promote horticultural-based interests, education, and artistic endeavors." A proposal is due in July. Our idea: Use a grant to purchase markers for trees along the tree walk in Fauntleroy Park and beef up our stewardship fund.

**Action item: Judy will talk with Lindsey about including this funding opportunity in her planning for the tree walk.**

Grantees are obligated to present the proposal in person, staff an information table in one of the tour gardens, and attend an award event.

**Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 8, on Zoom**

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #106, Sept. 15, 2022, on Pickens/Sweetland Patio**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Pete Draughon, Tom Trulin, Lindsey Conrad, Kathy Mutchler, Dennis Hinton, Rosalie Miller, Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

**1. Introductions**

With new people present, we did introductions.

**2. May minutes**

Approved as circulated.

**3. Treasury/fund reports**

Dennis reported \$907.35 in our checking account at Washington Federal.

Judy reported \$14,639.49 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps after \$2,548.50 in expenses for one crew day in the Kilbourne ravine, coir logs for the lower creek, and administrative fees.

**4. Park representative on executive committee**

Judy noted that Peggy Cummings has retired as a forest steward and member of the council's executive committee. We need someone to represent the park on that committee; action deferred until our November meeting.

**5. Seattle Parks**

Kristy could not be present but emailed her report that this maintenance district is now one position closer to being fully staffed. Marzerio is new on the route that includes Fauntleroy Park; he formerly worked on a Parks' trail crew and on its urban forestry unit. After seasonal layoffs, only permanent staff will remain but it is the most robust in more than three years.

Judy brought up reports about powdery mildew's infesting big-leaf maple trees in Seattle. Lindsey said that it seems to have been a result of our wet winter and spring, when tree leaves weren't able to dry as usual. The fungus came into this area about 10 years ago but, so far, most trees have been able to withstand it.

**6. Stewardship/habitat**

Forest steward report: With no report from Charlotte this meeting, Judy emphasized the need for a second forest steward, if not someone trained by the Green Seattle Partnership then someone interested in monitoring conditions in Fauntleroy Park and reporting any concerns. The process seems set up for watersheds/parks to identify potential stewards that GSP assigns after they complete the training. Lindsey brought up the potential for our getting some help from an intern with the Washington Native Plant Society.

***Action item: Lindsey will check about the possibility of having an intern with the Washington Native Plant Society assigned for a time to Fauntleroy Park.***

Lower-creek vegetation projects: Judy reported great progress on the ivy infestation off the Dunbar property near 45th Ave. SW and on the infestation of non-natives near the mouth of the creek.

- Dennis led a site visit involving plant specialist Josh Meidav and others from Seattle Public Utilities, plus Julian Douglas, WDFW's new habitat biologist for this region.
- Josh is working on a revegetation plan for each site; it is due very soon.

- Ann Dunbar has informed creekside neighbors and received offers of volunteer labor to weed/revegetate the ivy site.
- Chuck Sawyer is enthusiastic about weeding and revegetating on his beach property adjacent to the mouth. He has also initiated communication with Elizabeth Butler, the reach-to-the-beach owner.
- Betsy Lyons with SPU has offered free plants for both sites.
- Elizabeth is on her own track with the King Conservation District.
- Judy drafted a grant application but concluded that outside funding will not be needed as plants will be provided, volunteers will do the work at the upper site, and Chuck will do the work on his property.

Log relocation for spawners: Judy reported that she had filed for an HPA permit from WDFW so that volunteers can relocate drift logs rammed into the sand that block spawner access to the mouth of the creek. She has not yet received a confirmation. Julian agreed that relocation is likely to be needed. Mark Sears will be our lead.

**Action item: Judy will confirm that the permit will be forthcoming so that relocation, if needed, can start the end of September.** *[Complications ensued; getting the permit became uncertain.]*

Bank reinforcement: Dennis reported a work party in July to install new coir logs along a section of bank in the lower creek. Hydrologist Steve Winter advised and led.

## **7. Outreach**

Tree walk: Lindsey gave a detailed report about her work to fund and create a tree walk in Fauntleroy Park.

- Our grant proposal to the West Seattle Garden Tour is progressing through the process. We applied for \$4,000, a portion of which will fund signs for about a dozen trees on the tour, plus beef up our stewardship fund for maintenance projects, especially in the Kilbourne ravine. Lindsey will make our in-person pitch for the grant in October.
- Lindsey, Tom, and Rosalie have looked at trees throughout the park and made a preliminary selection based on species, ready trail access, and photographic potential.
- Tom and Rosalie will be taking the photos.
- Lindsey has reached out to the Duwamish Tribe about getting Lushootseed tree names for the signs.
- Our website would have the entire tour, with photo and text of each tree.
- Each tree sign would have a QR code so that someone taking the tour could access a few sentences of text on our website describing the tree and providing a link to more information. The QR code would also be posted at park entrances.
- Park users could take the entire tour or access information about a specific tree they come across.
- Lindsey has lined up several volunteers to test the tour and to make sure all online connections work as planned.
- A new volunteer (Jean McMackin) stands ready to help publicize the tour to area residents with an article in *Neighbors*.
- The project is on target to roll out in the spring.

In the media: Dennis reported that the Sept. 1 issue of *Neighbors* had an article about Peggy's retirement. The *West Seattle Blog* covered installation of the coir logs.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy reported that she and Dennis devised and distributed a simple satisfaction survey for recent recruits over the summer. Most responded and all those with positive feedback. She said the experience was a good first effort for when a more in-depth survey might be warranted.

## **8. Project activity**

**Final smolt report:** Dennis reported a final count of just 11 this spring. He said the forecast is for a robust return to the Sound this fall; coho are already being caught off the beach at Lincoln Park.

**Water testing:** In lieu of a report from Raegan Goff, Judy mentioned that King County will be doing benthic sampling this month and Shannon Ninburg will be arranging for Boren STEM fourth graders to continue our study by sampling in mid October.

**Ferry terminal upgrade:** Judy reported that another meeting of the community advisory group is on her September calendar; the group has not met for several months. She remains optimistic that multiple efforts in Fauntleroy, plus tribal opposition, will succeed in limiting the terminal's footprint to what it is now, with no more overwater coverage of nearshore habitat. The community association's position emphasizes that expediting ticketing will preclude the need for expansion.

**Culvert replacement projects:** Phil reported that Fauntleroy Church filed a \$3.3M grant application for design work on a hybrid idea that combines an enclosed culvert and increased natural channel. The work would be hand in hand with SPU. Award decisions will be announced in a few weeks; an award of \$1.1M would get the project to 30% design. SPU is continuing work on replacing its culvert under 45th Ave. SW. Flood management specialists will be out soon to advise the church how to prepare in case of a major blockage that causes flooding. Phil noted that either the church or city part of the culvert might fail; having had a look at a clear video of the city portion, it appears to be the more derelict of the two.

**Annual drumming:** Judy reported that planning is under way for our annual drumming on Sunday, Oct. 16, with an emphasis on volunteering. The half-hour event will include tributes to Steev Ward and Peggy Cummings.

## **9. Education**

Phil reported that Salmon in the Schools-Seattle will be hosting on-line training for new teachers in mid October, supplemented by in-person training on tank maintenance. The program has a new technical specialist following the retirement of Nancie Hernandez.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, Nov.10, 6:30 pm on Zoom

### **Upcoming events**

**Recycle Roundup** Saturday, Sept. 24, 9:00 am-3:00 pm in the church parking lot

**Salmon drumming** Sunday, Oct. 16, 4:00 pm in the Pickens/Sweetland parking area

**Fauntleroy Fall Festival** Sunday, Oct. 23, 2:00-5:00 pm in the church/YMCA/schoolhouse triangle

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #107, Nov. 10, 2022, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton, Rosalie Miller, Chris Nack, Raegan Goff, Kathy Mutchler, Pete Draughon, Lindsey Conrad, Ryan Lewis, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

**1. Introductions**

We welcomed Ryan as a newcomer. In middle school, he participated in Salmon in the Schools at Our Lady of Guadalupe and is now managing environmental restoration for the Snoqualmie Tribe.

**2. Minutes**

September minutes approved as distributed

**3. Treasury/fund reports**

Dennis reported a balance in our checking account of \$907.35. Judy reported a balance of \$14,639.49 in our stewardship fund maintained by EarthCorps. We will have an expenditure in December for an EarthCorps crew day in the Kilbourne ravine.

**4. Seattle Parks**

Kristy Darcy could not be present but conveyed the following report in writing:

- The district's staff is catching up on deferred maintenance that built up over the past few years and is getting close. Her goal is to return to a regular schedule for routine maintenance to be ahead of things before they come issues.
- She has filled another 2 positions since our last meeting and hopes to have one more filled by the end of the year.
- The crew is getting ready for fall trail work and will be coming through Fauntleroy Park soon to cut back vegetation as needed and reduce slipping hazards from fallen leaves.
- If the wind brings down trees in the park, call her office at 206-684-7457 and leave a message if need be, including your phone number.
- She has put in a work order about the flourishing wild clematis in the park on SW Barton St.

**5. Project activity**

Salmon Watch 2022: Dennis reported a total of 207 coho spawners as of this evening, with more sighted in the cove awaiting high tide. He estimated that about 10% of the fish have been jacks. The spawners have been really big (up to about 6 pounds), bright, and vigorous. Watchers have documented lots of spawning activity and seen several cutthroat trout in to eat loose eggs as later spawners dig up the redds of earlier fish. Fingerlings from last year have also been prevalent, perhaps also after eggs.

Relocating drift logs on the beach seems to have been key. Mark Sears is monitoring daily to see if more moving is needed. He noted that Judy had persevered with State Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to secure the necessary permit through 2026. Mark has surveyed the creek corridor multiple times up to 45th Ave. SW and seen several spawners. Predation of carcasses has been very evident.

Our creek open house and spawning activity since have drawn more than 200 visitors, and we've had lots of enthusiastic watchers. Dennis believes awareness of the creek has really notched up this year.

Tree walk: Lindsey was with us briefly by phone, en route to San Francisco. After losing the connection, Judy reported that Lindsey has amassed many beautiful photos to consider for the walk and

that she enjoyed appealing for a grant to members of the West Seattle Garden Tour committee. Awards are to be announced in February.

Water testing: Raegan reported that her monthly testing is going well, except that her day job got in the way of her collecting samples in August. She has seen nothing of concern. She will reach the one-year mark in January, then decide about continuing.

Ferry terminal upgrade: Judy reported that the Community Advisory Group met in September after a hiatus of several months. Widening the trestle to the north for more parking is now off the table, a decision that saved Cove Park. The ferry system still retains the option of lengthening the trestle but has not yet looked into the possible impacts of wind, currents, or depth farther out. She said that the community association's board has continued to lobby every way possible against any more over-water coverage, including no second slip.

She worked with the staff person at WDFW overseeing the ferry system's replacement of the dolphin damaged when a ferry went off course. As a result, WDFW assigned a monitor to keep watch for spawners as the piling were removed and replaced. The work was safely completed shortly before spawning season.

Church/city culvert replacements: Phil reported that Fauntleroy Church was disappointed not to receive grant funding from the King County Flood Control District. Seattle Public Utilities got great cooperation from the city's flood-response team to respond in the event of potential flooding of the church basement if a culvert blockage were to occur during heavy rain. The church now has a skid of sandbags at the ready. The response could include installing bypass piping to carry creek flow across the church parking lot and California Ave. SW into the Kilbourne ravine.

## **6. Stewardship/habitat**

Judy summarized progress on two vegetation concerns in the lower creek as follows:

Reach to beach - The owners engaged help to pull invasive species that have clogged the channel. They have been in conversation with the King Conservation District about getting native replacement plants.

Ivy infestation near 45th - Owners Ann and Brian Dunbar discovered an eroding area of streambank that they are addressing first, then will return to the ivy. Although the city offered to purchase replacement plants, they would not come until the culvert-replacement project at 45th is under way. Judy suspects that paying for plants might be a share situation with the owners, requiring some of our stewardship fund. Dennis added that Mark has not seen any blockage this year by the ivy there.

## **7. Education**

Benthic sampling: Judy reported that volunteer educator Shannon Ninburg led fourth graders from Louisa Boren STEM in the annual sampling on Nov. 1. They found small macroinvertebrates at both upper and lower sites, but she has not yet seen the report. She also said that King County had done benthic sampling several weeks earlier and that results could take awhile for microscopic analysis.

***Action item: Judy will request findings from the county's sampling.***

Judy said she plans to send the report to SPU, even though this and our salmon-monitoring reports seem to have gone into a dark hole. Other watersheds across the city have had the same experience, and the Seattle Watershed Alliance will be pressing SPU to retain and apply volunteer data.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that the SIS-Seattle steering committee recently hosted two teacher workshops in anticipation of eggs arriving in early January. He is awaiting permits from WDFW for all participating schools in the city.

Salmon releases: Judy said that we expect 17 releases in May - 13 by schools with tanks and 4 by preschoolers releasing fry reared by volunteer Jack Lawless. Hazelwood Preschool in the church will be new (replacing Little Pilgrim), as will the Lincoln Park Co-Op Preschool in the Fauntleroy Schoolhouse.

## **8. Outreach**

Drumming and peace pole: Judy reported that the drumming drew about 30 people, with lots of children. About 50 people attended a Nov. 5 ceremony at the fish-ladder viewpoint to dedicate a peace pole installed near the vanpool parking area by owners of the reach to the beach. Many attendees came down afterwards to see spawners.

In the media: Dennis reported exceptional coverage by the *West Seattle Blog*, including our call for salmon watchers, the first sighting, our open creek, updates on spawner counts, and the peace pole ceremony.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy reported that volunteering had been the focus of this year's drumming, including tributes to retired volunteers Steev Ward and Peggy Cummings. Our updated list of volunteer opportunities was available at the drumming, the open creek, and at the watch's communication center. Our challenge now, she said, is to plug in those who have recently volunteered.

Creek tour: Judy said that the Seattle Watershed Alliance has had two tours to date of city creeks and she and Phil have suggested a tour of Fauntleroy Creek in the spring (April or June). The event could also be open to the public.

***Action item: Judy will reach out for help with planning what to see, the logistics of moving people around, and other facets of a tour.***

## **Next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 12, 6:30 on Zoom**

Agenda items will include

- Raegan's annual report of water testing
- Chris's summary of website activity
- Issues in Fauntleroy Park
- Spawner and smolt monitoring
- 2022 annual watershed report

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