

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #108, Jan. 12, 2023, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton, Chris Nack, Kathy Mutchler, Pete Draughon, Lindsey Conrad, Ryan Lewis, Vanessa Pepi, Tom Trulin, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Brent Nakamura

1. Introductions

2. November minutes

Approved as distributed

3. Financial reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$907.35 in our checking account at WaFd. Judy reported a balance of \$12,682.90 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps. She noted that expenditures in 2022 were more than double the amount of new donations and encouraged everyone to consider donating.

4. Seattle Parks

Brent introduced himself as the acting district crew chief during the six months or so that Kristy Darcy is on special assignment. He said the big focus this past fall was on leaf retention so that all leaves that fall in city parks stay there as mulch. We gave him a head's up about the need to check trail and bridge conditions in advance of May salmon releases to ensure student safety.

Action item: Dennis will coordinate with Brent for a walk-and-talk about the creek and park; Brent will invite Senior Gardener Tim Holland to join them.

Judy brought up her request this week for Parks to remove wild clematis on the north slope of the Kilbourne ravine (part of Kilbourne Park). She alerted the property manager at the schoolhouse that someone from Parks might need access through the Fauntleroy Children's Center playground. She reiterated the importance of quickly eliminating any clematis that reveals itself.

Action item: Brent is aware of the infestation and will get on it.

5. Project activity

Fish monitoring: Dennis reminded all of our 254 spawners in the fall and said he will be watching for emergence of home hatch in mid February. Pete and Tom will be installing smolt traps in the upper and lower creek by March 15 and remove them in late May. As Dennis explained to newcomers, volunteers will check each trap twice daily to document how many smolts survived their year in the creek to leave for saltwater.

Tree walk: Lindsey reported the following:

- The West Seattle Garden Tour awarded the \$4,700 grant we requested, some of which will fund signage for the tour; the bulk of it will go into our stewardship fund for habitat maintenance.
- She will be sending project and watershed information to the tour to use in its publicity.
- She has drafted descriptions of trees and major shrubs in Fauntleroy Park; new volunteer Jean McMackin will edit and Chris will post so that those doing the tour can access descriptions and photos using a QR code on the signage.

Action item: Lindsey will clarify with her tour contact that the contract has been finalized.

Action item: Chris will advise whether she wants horizontal or vertical photos for the website.

Watershed-plan updating: Ryan reported that he has updated introductory language and, with Judy's help, has been updating the project matrix. Now that Vanessa is back in town, he will be coordinating with her. He expects to have a draft to share by email within a few days. Judy said she had sent him several action items related to Fauntleroy Park and suggested that the bigger task will be determining what to include about the creek corridor. Ryan said he has added a section about challenges ahead, including the impacts of climate change. Vanessa asked for an orientation to the creek.

Action item: *Dennis will connect Vanessa to Mark Sears when he's back in town in March for a tromp along the creek or make other arrangements if she'd like to do it sooner.*

Church/city culvert replacement: Judy reported that the church reconnected with Seattle Public Utilities to resume joint planning just as SPU's lead, Betsy Lyons, was leaving for the private sector. Another key player will be on maternity leave until September, so not much is happening. She noted that Phil had recently digested data from monthly reports SPU is providing because of the holes its contractor punched in the church's end of the culvert. He also assessed videos and was able to identify areas that bear watching closely for further deterioration.

Funding opportunities: Kathy summarized the current round of funding available from King County's WaterWorks program. She plans to attend an online information session. Proposals are due March 8 for projects aimed at improving water quality. She will also get up to speed on funding possibilities from the Rose Foundation, all aimed at our knowing about grant sources should we need funding for updating our watershed plan or another project.

6. Outreach

Website annual report: Chris summarized 2022 activity on our website as follows:

- Data from Google Analytics show a doubling of users this year over last, as well as significant boosts in other categories, possibly because of increased public awareness and/or improved ease of navigating the site.
- After landing on the home page, the highest number of users went to the creek section.
- About the same number came directly as through a referral source, the primary one again being the *West Seattle Blog*.
- Our new presence on Instagram had attracted 80 followers by year's end.

In the media: Dennis reported that both the *West Seattle Blog* and *Neighbors* community newsletter published articles/photos about our spawning season. The *Blog* also recently published an article with photos about egg distribution to the schools.

Volunteer recruitment: Judy reported several newcomers during spawning season - what Dennis called an "inspiring response." She said all have been offered a one-time or ongoing way to plug in. She also noted the potential involvement of Eddie Martin in helping develop online wayfinding in the park.

2022 annual watershed report: Judy said the 10-page report is almost finished; Dennis is reviewing it now and she invited others to do so if they wish. She noted that the report is replete with great photos, thanks in large part to Tom. She said she has a long distribution list (teachers, volunteers, elected officials, agency colleagues, etc.) and encouraged council members to pass the report pdf along to anyone they think would want to see it.

Action item: *Judy will make several color copies of the report and let everyone know when they are available to pick up.*

7. Stewardship/habitat

In her absence, Judy said that forest steward Charlotte Linton had been able to plant shrubs in the park with a neighbor, lead a preschool planting party, and do a little weeding in 2022. See the annual report for specifics.

Judy added that she recently met with Karen Farnsworth, a long-time park advocate who is considering becoming a second forest steward. Judy has been trying to pin down the next training but, so far, hasn't heard from the Green Seattle Partnership.

8. Education

Phil reported the recent distribution of eyed coho eggs to 14 schools. None has yet reported hatching but so far, so good.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 9, 6:30 on Zoom

Agenda items will include

- Watershed plan update
- Raegan's annual report of water testing
- Spring watershed tour
- Wayfinding in Fauntleroy Park

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