

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #110, May 11, 2023, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton, Ryan Lewis, Tracy Randel, Lindsey Conrad, Karen Farnsworth, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

1. Introductions

2. March 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 \$17,382.90 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps. She noted that a bill for a crew day in early May is due, which will deduct just over \$2,000, and said she will be thinking ways to rejuvenate donations to this fund as we are spending more than we are attracting.

4. Seattle Parks

No report as no representative was present.

5. Project activity

Smolt monitoring: Dennis reported that monitors have recorded 30 smolts going to saltwater to date. Another was visible in the lower creek but not yet trapped. Monitoring will continue for about another two weeks. Pete, Tom, Dennis, and Steve Damm with SPU have been working on a new trap design as the existing traps are falling apart. They installed a prototype in the lower creek to give it a try.

45th culvert blockage: A crew from SPU finally removed most of the blockage but the job required at least a dozen people and took about a month from when we first reported that a pond was forming in the Kilbourne ravine. Getting a crew there took a few days but then the city gave it top priority; for some of that time, rainy weather was a factor. We had several volunteers keeping an eye on water level in the pond over weekends. Steve Damm was very much on the job and netted a total of 11 smolts over two days from the pond. Judy said that, in an article for the neighborhood newsletter, an SPU engineer explained that the city would be monitoring flow through the culvert monthly and doing CCTV twice a year until the culvert can be replaced, publicly predicted for 2026. Dennis noted that the two Dumpsters directly above the culvert intake have continued to overflow into the ravine. Lindsey said that her partner, Brock Arzesen, had spoken with the manager again but was not encouraged. Dennis is in hopes that Steve will be able to leverage action to keep that area free of debris.

Action item: Judy will follow up with Steve to understand our best next step.

Tree walk: Lindsey reported that the identification markers have arrived, though one needs to be corrected. They have long shafts that discourage vandals. Multiple early users suggested improvements before the walk goes public; text is already on the website and she will be giving Chris a map to post. Lindsey will be putting together an information table for the June 25 garden tour (an obligation of our grant). She and Judy will work on an article for the June 1 issue of *Neighbors*, as well as an article announcing the walk for the *West Seattle Blog*.

Salmon releases: Dennis noted that our release team is at the midpoint, with 17 releases by the end of May. He spoke for others to say it's been a rewarding time of year. Judy added a brief report about Westside School's May 12 event introducing its fence of wooden salmon profiles painted by students.

She and Phil represented the watershed and Salmon in the Schools and she initiated coverage of the event on the *West Seattle Blog*.

Watershed plan update: Ryan recapped the process to date, saying that he and Vanessa had walked the area and updated the introductory section to include accomplishments and new challenges. Judy edited and organized their draft and sent it to everyone for comment. She shared the matrix of projects on screen and walked through how she would like everyone to submit project ideas over the summer to put meat on the bones of the update.

Action item: *Judy will resend the introductory section with the draft minutes, plus a Word file for everyone to submit project ideas by Sept. 1.*

6. Stewardship/habitat

Forest steward report: Having another meeting soon, Karen briefly reported that Hazelwood Preschool students are working on salmon art for the park kiosks. She has no new information about older students' helping update the self-guided nature walk.

Action item: *Judy will contact the Hazelwood director to understand what's happening with the summer camp for older students.*

Kilbourne ravine maintenance: Judy reported that the EarthCorps crew in there in early May for plant maintenance detoured to interact with Pathfinder students at the release bridge. She negotiated that EarthCorps would drop its 15% administrative fee for that day to compensate for the work time lost.

7. In development

Wayfinding in Fautleroy Park: Tracy reported that she had taken a close look at what consultant Matt Dressler developed for the Duwamish River trail and has settled on using the CalTopo app as the best way to create an electronic map of the park without using his services. She is still learning its capabilities but a friend offered to help her, as did Lindsey. The app will enable her to create color-coded maps by need (stairs, under construction, etc.). Several capabilities are available for free and more can be had for only \$100/year. A park visitor could see determine location and could also print a map. She has created a "Fautleroy Park" CalTopo file.

Action item: *Tracy will let everyone know when she's ready to hear from us about features we would like to see.*

Access improvements in the park: Judy reported that Rosalie has begun exploring ways to improve park usage for wheeled visitors (strollers, walkers, wheelchairs) and will keep us posted.

8. Outreach

In the media: Dennis reported that the *West Seattle Blog* covered the first salmon release and is likely to cover the last. The *Blog* also published multiple articles about the culvert blockage at 45th and included several of Tom's photos.

Fall watershed tour: Judy confessed that she has not been able to move this project, initiated by the Seattle Watershed Alliance, off the back burner.

Action item: *Judy will work toward a recommended approach in time for our September meeting.*

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 14, on the Pickens/Sweetland patio, weather permitting