

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #113, Jan. 11, 2024, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Tracy Randel, Karen Farnsworth, Kathy Mutchler, Chris Nack, Tom Trulin, Lindsey Conrad, John Sturtevant, Megan Mollman Webber, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Jesse Bonn

**1. Introductions**

**2. November minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Financial reports**

Dennis reported a balance of \$860.93 in our checking account. Judy reported a balance of \$14,660.84 in our stewardship fund, which reflects 2023 donations of \$4,700, including the West Seattle Garden Tour grant. She previewed her intention to send out an appeal to all who receive our annual report as yearly expenses are exceeding donations.

**4. Seattle Parks**

Jesse provided a summary of his background and evidenced a lot of enthusiasm for his assignment as district crew chief and his involvement with the council on behalf of Fauntleroy Park. Discussion brought up the following projects for his attention:

- The slippery slope in the “owl area” in the middle of the park needs attention for erosion control; Karen is our lead.
- The path from the sidewalk to the Barton St. kiosk; Amir Williams suggested creating a hard-gravel path to make access easier for those park visitors relying on wheels. Our accessibility lead, Rosalie Miller, recently informed him that the area at the kiosk is muddy.
- A tree is down over a boardwalk and mesh on boardwalks is coming loose again; John has details.
- The grassy area at the 97th St. entrance is well work because of dog usage. Could sections be roped off so the grass can rejuvenate? Karen is out lead.
- The Plexiglas on the Barton St. kiosk is broken (vandalism) and needs replacing. So does the scratched Plexiglas on the 97th St. kiosk.
- Both kiosks are due for a power wash and painting.

★ **Action item:** *Judy will send him recent minutes to help him get up to speed.*

**5. Fauntleroy Park**

Forest steward report: Karen reported heavy use of the park during mild weather over the holidays, including lots of dogs, many off leash with no scoop compliance. Other topics she raised are listed above.

Tree walk: Lindsey has passed all the identification signs on to Jesse to install more securely, possibly using concrete.

★ **Action item:** *Lindsey will send the locations to Tracy to including in her wayfinding project.*

Updated nature walk: Megan reported that she had walked the loop in the fall and made lots of notes. She expressed interest in aligning the walk with the four seasons and looking into combining it with the wayfinding project.

★ **Action item:** *Megan will team with Tracy to see if objectives of the nature walk can be met with the wayfinding project.*

Wayfinding: Tracy referred all to the brief she emailed prior to the meeting, which gave a designer co-worker who volunteered to help. She then shared his draft map as illustrative of how she sees this project unfolding.

After meeting with Karen and Rosalie to see trails for herself, what loops might be possible, and where obstacles are, she said she realized that just having an improved map with information about trail conditions could be a huge improvement. The draft map generated much discussion - what's better, what's not right, what might be added. She floated the idea of showing multiple loops that visitors could take, with lengths indicated. John suggested she might name or color-code trails; Ryan asked about adding topographic lines. She emphasized that the goal is to be informative without overloading it with details. The draft shown could evolve into a poster for kiosks as well as into a brochure with watershed information on the other side. Lindsey suggested that Tracy employ Karen's artistic talent to emphasize habitat stewardship.

★ **Action item:** *Tracy will work with Lindsey and Megan to incorporate their work, review all our suggestions, and share a fresh draft when ready.*

## **6. Creek/nearshore**

Spawning season: Dennis recapped a great season: 34 coho, scores of visitors, 20+ watchers. When no fish were to be seen during the open creek, he noted the value of the fish videos that both Tom and Tracy shared with visitors.

Ferry terminal rebuild: Judy summarized what Washington State Ferries had presented in the fall, which was the first meeting in a year of the Community Advisory Group on which she serves. Planners continue to offer design options that would increase overwater coverage. She thanked Ryan for his list of the potential negative impacts on nearshore habitat if the trestle is enlarged for parking. The next meeting will be Feb. 7 at 6:00 pm on Zoom and she encouraged all who are interested to audit as the time for strong advocacy is nye. The meeting is to feature findings on the state's study of pre-ticketing and of transportation implications. Here is how to connect:

For a project overview, visit [wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement](https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/major-projects/sr-160-fauntleroy-terminal-trestle-transfer-span-replacement).

To audit a meeting of the community, technical, or executive advisory group, email your request to [FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:FauntleroyTermProj@wsdot.wa.gov).

## **7. Education**

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that 14 schools got coho eggs on Jan. 4 and Jack got his customary 500 to rear as backup fish. He made a second trip to the hatchery to replace dead eggs at two schools, apparently because of water chemistry.

Salmon on the fence: Judy reported that a friend whose woodworking group at Horizon House had cut salmon profiles for Westside is doing the same for Roxhill. Salmon teacher Kyoko Giedeman will help 53 first graders paint and seal them and the principal will enlist volunteers to hang them on the playground fence. This will bring to at least five the number of West Seattle schools with significant salmon art.

## **8. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported that the *West Seattle Blog* recently covered egg distribution and our wrap-up of spawning season, which generated many positive comments. The community newsletter, *Neighbors*, also summarized the season.

Web usage: Chris reported a 5% increase in use of our website in 2023, with the most popular topics being the creek and tree walk. A total of 611 referrals came from other websites.

★ *Chris will send details to Jud for the annual report.*

★ *Action item: Tracy will show Chris how to find details on referrals.*

### **9. Volunteers**

Judy summarized recruitment and engagement during 2023 as “encouraging,” a sentiment that Dennis echoed. Some inquiries have come from volunteers wanting to do more and some as a result of the list of opportunities on our website. They briefed several recruits, heard their interests, and encouraged them to get acquainted with what’s going on and jump in when they see opportunity.

### **10. 2023 annual report**

Judy reported that she has started drafting our report and noted how many great photos she has to work with, thanks to Tom and others. She is working with those involved to draft and check sections, then Dennis and Phil will help proof the final. She hopes to have it ready for distribution as a pdf by the end of the month. Everyone is welcome to pass it on to those know who might be interested. The distribution will include a pitch for our stewardship fund.

### **11. Out-migration monitoring**

Dennis noted that our two smolt traps must be designed, built, and installed by March 15. He and Tom will take the lead and John offered to help. They will look into involving an Eagle Scout candidate and his grandfather; if the Scout doesn’t work out, the grandfather will still help.

### **12. Advocacy**

Judy reported receiving an email through our website about a development project on Longfellow Creek that would involve clearing mature trees in an environmentally critical area - a concern because the city’s current tree-preservation ordinance favors development. She advised that anyone concerned about tree canopy start following this issue as it will likely soon be before the City Council again.

**Next meeting: Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30 pm on Zoom**