

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #114, March 14, 2024, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Karen Farnsworth, Kathy Mutchler, Tom Trulin, Lindsey Conrad, Pete Draughon, Jesse Todhunter, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Public Utilities guests: Jonathan Brown, Magin Mailer, Shanti Colwell, Stephen Anderson

1. Introductions

We welcomed new volunteer Jesse Todhunter. Judy said she had heard from several members who could not be present.

2. January minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Financial reports

Dennis reported a balance of \$860.93 in our checking accounting. Judy reported \$3,086 in recent donations to our stewardship fund, including \$1,000 from the Scan Design Foundation in gratitude for our assistance (mostly Tom's photography) last summer during building of the troll in Lincoln Park. The \$86 was the unspent portion of money we had deposited 10 years ago to cover inspections of undeveloped right of way during restoration of the Kilbourne ravine. Judy offered to return it to the King Conservation District but the grant administer advised that we simply add it to our stewardship fund.

4. Fauntleroy Park

Karen reported having done a little weeding in Fauntleroy Park and that early spring blossoms are showing. She contacted Jesse Bonn about getting started on changes to the "owl area" where a temporary wooden fence is derelict and the slope is eroding. She also wants him to take a look at other areas where people have walked off trail to access the creek and where trees have come down onto boardwalk.

Action item: Karen will keep trying to pin down a time with Jesse to address these concerns.

Judy said she had emailed Jesse B. this week about an idea his predecessor, Carol Baker, had posited in 2016. Because we had used grant funding to put in the boardwalk, her district crew could not simply replace it. She said we might be able to advocate for city replacement to current standard within Seattle Parks' capital budget. Neither we nor Carol followed up. Judy asked Jesse B. for the best timing if the idea still has merit.

She also reported that Rosalie Miller had gone through the city's draft update of its comprehensive plan for parks and natural areas and submitted the following comment about accessibility on our behalf:

Wheeled access is woefully missing from this document. After looking at sections related to accessibility, I searched the draft for key words. "ADA" is used primarily about pool renovations and under "accessibility" without further definition or detail. "Wheeled sports" are mentioned but not defined. "Wheelchair" is not mentioned anywhere. "Walkability" is a defined section of the document but "wheeled access" is not mentioned at all.

Seattle Parks and Recreation needs to improve access for all to our city's public parks and recreation facilities, including for residents served by specialized programs for people with disabilities.

5. Tree-walk signs/wayfinding

Lindsey reported that she has not yet been able to get a date from Jesse B. to show him where his crew needs to re-install species signs to best discourage theft. She will keep trying.

In Tracy and Megan's absence, Lindsey reported having oriented them to the tree walk as it will figure in their wayfinding project. Judy asked the status of updating the self-guided nature walk, noting that many more visitors are likely to be in the park during upcoming warm weather. Lindsey said the plan is to incorporate the tree walk on the wayfinding map and use information bubbles to point out features. Because the self-guided nature walk is extensive, it would have its own map.

6. Smolt trapping

Dennis and Tom reported installation yesterday of new smolt traps in the upper and lower creek. Twice-daily monitoring will start tomorrow and go through mid to late May. Dennis was very complimentary of Eagle Scout candidate Ben Vornbrock, ably aided in trap design and construction by dad Dan and granddad Greg Vornbrock. Other family members, plus fellow Scouts, were also part of the installation and will be learning how to check the traps for smolts en route to saltwater. All are hopeful that the new design will do the job and simplify monitoring. Judy and Phil created signs to discourage tampering with the traps.

Action item: Dennis will schedule volunteer monitors.

Action item: Tom and Pete will meet tomorrow with Jesse T. to get him up to speed as a monitor.

7. Ferry terminal rebuild

Judy reported that the ferry system continues to assess designs that would increase overwater coverage in order to park more vehicles on the trestle. All West Seattle members of the project's community advisory group sent a letter reminding planners of their opposition. The group will meet again next week to hear findings of the state's examination of related transportation factors and also its study of advanced digital ticketing that could eliminate the need for most drivers to go through a toll booth, which is what slows processing now, causes the queue along Fauntleroy Way SW, and impacts service efficiency.

8. In the media

Dennis reported continued excellent coverage on the *West Seattle Blog*, including culvert replacement at 45th, home hatch, and the new access path at the SW Barton St. entrance to the park. *Neighbors* also covered the 45th culvert and access path.

9. Table at food fest

Judy said she's not heard any more about using our information table at next week's fest to collect comments about what should be included in the wayfinding map.

Action item: Judy will check with Tracy about table status.

Upcoming free events

Tuesday, March 19: FCA Annual Meeting and Food Fest 6 pm in the Hall @ Fauntleroy

Saturday, April 27: Recycle Roundup 9 am-3 pm at Fauntleroy Church

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