

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #115, May 9, 2024, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Kathy Mutchler, John Sturtevant, Megan Mollman Webber, Chris Nack, Ryan Lewis, Jesse Todhunter, Tracy Randle, Chaz Hastings, Phil Sweetland, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

1. Introductions

2. March minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Wayfinding project

Tracy and Megan gave an extensive report on progress toward digital wayfinding in Fauntleroy Park, including an impressive draft of the map created by Tracy's colleague, Sam To. A park visitor will be able to navigate by smart phone, with various features appearing along the trail and details popping up for each. Features will include those on the tree walk, those on a loop nature walk, and structures such as the release bridge. Colors will denote trail conditions from easy to challenging, stairs, and steep inclines. In addition to an interactive map, a large printed map in the kiosks would include a QR code to the digital version, plus our web address, habitat details, and stewardship advice. They will work toward completion by the end of June.

Next steps: Tracy and Megan will test two apps to select the better one and identify points of interest for the updated nature walk.

Action item: Judy will advise what information they should include on the large map. She will also provide text for the nature walk's points of interest and include tie-ins to salmon.

Action item: Tracy will arrange Zoom meetings with those affected as she needs to over the summer.

4. Church/city culvert replacement

Judy reported that Fauntleroy Church is very close to agreements with the city that will enable this project to move forward. The congregation will vote on them in early June, followed by a vote by the City Council. Project timing from there will be up to Seattle Public Utilities.

5. Fish business

Releases: Dennis reported that school releases have reached the halfway point and have gone well. Judy complimented our release team with their ability to roll with challenges, including a surprise inclusion today of several Boren students with disabilities. Inclusion of a half dozen special-ed students is planned next week for the Pathfinder release, which will feature the first "troll talk" by volunteer docent Jane Gunwaldsen in Lincoln Park; the *West Seattle Blog* plans to cover.

The Bridges release next week for young adults with disabilities will be different in that the lead teacher wants to set a slower pace and teach as he dips fish. Phil is to help him scout how the students (several using wheelchairs) will get from the nearest Metro bus stop to the release bridge; Phil will join Dennis and Tom during the release to help ensure that all goes well.

Smolt monitoring: Dennis noted that monitors recorded the last smolt in the upper trap on 4/30. Mark Sears bushwhacked his way upstream of the trap to check for any blockage and found only a tangle below the release bridge. Monitors have tallied 30 smolts and about 80 fry to date.

6. Volunteer engagement

Judy reported additional queries about volunteering and said she has been impressed how new people have pitched right in to help as their interests and time align.

7. Money matters

Dennis reported a balance of \$860.93 in our checking account. Judy reported \$5,000 in donations to our stewardship fund between Jan. 1 and March 30. The fund paid a \$2,999.76 bill for one EarthCorps crew day maintaining restored habitat in the Kilbourne ravine, leaving a balance as of today of \$16,460.90.

8. In the media

Dennis reported *West Seattle Blog* coverage of our first salmon release, with plans also to cover the first troll talk and the last release.

9. Good of the order

Ferry terminal rebuild: Judy reported that Washington State Ferries postponed next week's meeting of the Community Advisory Group for the Fauntleroy Terminal rebuild. She speculated that pressure from this community may have prompted the state to give priority to reporting findings of its study of electronic pre-ticketing, which could affect decisions affecting overwater coverage/nearshore habitat.

Wire mesh on boardwalk: John reported that a student had tripped today on loose wire mesh, necessitating a bandage. Judy said she had reminded Jesse that, before Carol Baker retired, she had suggested we look into boardwalk replacement as a capital project. He said he would ask, even though Seattle Parks gets more requests than funding. Tracy suggested contacting Karen Farnsworth to see if she had had any luck getting mesh repaired by using the city's Find It/Fix It app.

Action item: Judy will ask Jesse Bonn about doing the repairs and check with Karen about using the app if he can't.

Park liaison: Judy reported that Jesse is very willing to do what he can when we ask but is not keen on attending meetings.

Next meeting: Thursday, Sept. 12, 6:30 pm on Zoom