

**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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**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #109, March 9, 2023, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton, Pete Draughon, Ryan Lewis, Vanessa Pepi, Tom Trulin, Karen Farnsworth, 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 \$17,382.90 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps. She noted the receipt of our \$4,700 grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour and two gifts late last year totaling \$300: one from creekside neighbor Craig Pedersen and one from the MMS Giving Foundation (a one-person foundation that has been giving annually).

**4. Seattle Parks**

Brent reported a fair amount of staff turnover but new hires will be at work soon. Topics we raised:

- Karen noted that the grass at the 97th St. entrance needs reseeding because of lots of dog use. She suggested taping off a section at a time until new grass has established. Signage to let users know what's going on would be helpful.

***Action item: Brent will talk with his senior gardener about the project and coordinate with Karen.***

- Judy raised the presence of several wild clematis vines on city property in the Kilbourne ravine. She emphasized that we're spending about \$5K annually for EarthCorps to maintain the rest of the site and need Seattle Parks to do its part. In recent correspondence with Brent and Michael Yadrick, they indicated that the department's natural-areas team needs to do the work, and Michael advised that the seeds won't be spreading for awhile. Brent said he understands that to be the case and also our concern that the invasive not re-establish.

***Action item: Brent will check in with Michael to see if the work can get on the schedule.***

- Dennis reiterated his earlier offer of a walkaround to acquaint newcomers to the creek system.

***Action item: Dennis will coordinate with Ryan, Vanessa, Brent, and Mark Sears to settle on a day/time.***

Karen brought up graffiti on the two park kiosks, and Brent explained how Seattle Parks is currently addressing it, depending on amount. He advised using the city's Find It Fix It website to submit our request.

***Action item: Karen will send Brent photos and he will advise if she should use the city's Find It Fix It website to submit our request or use another approach. .***

**5. Project activity**

**Smolt monitoring:** Dennis reported that Pete and Tom will be installing our two traps by March 15 and that Mark has offered to help. He noted that Tom saw our first home hatch on Feb. 20 and that the lower creek is teeming with at least a hundred fry.

**Tree walk:** In Lindsey's absence, Judy summarized her comprehensive update of this project:

A dozen iconic native trees and shrubs have been identified along arterial trails in Fauntleroy Park. Rosalie Miller and Tom have taken photos and Jean McMackin is currently editing the species profiles that Lindsey drafted.

Chris Nack has developed a web page and put up introductory text. People taking the walk will click on the QR code on each plant's ID sign to get to the page, then select which species to read about. Michele Balagot with the Tulalip Tribe kindly provided Lushootseed translation for the signs.

The March issue of *Neighbors* previewed the walk, and Lindsey is putting together an information table about it for the March 21 Fauntleroy Food Fest (including a drawing for native plants). Assuming all goes well, the walk rollout will be via the *West Seattle Blog* in early May.

Per conditions of our grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour, Lindsey will have an information table at one of the gardens on June 25, represent us at the tour finale in July, and submit all required reports.

**Wayfinding in Fauntleroy Park:** Judy shared the idea of somehow using smart phones instead of signage to get park visitors where they want to go and to areas they haven't explored. Eddie Martin advised that we need someone experienced in mapping/GIS/cartography. Judy sent a feeler to our volunteer list and got one lead from a salmon watcher and another possibility from Vanessa. She will be following up to see if we can advance this idea.

## **6. Stewardship/habitat**

**Forest steward activity:** Karen explained that she is serving as our second volunteer forest steward until the Green Seattle Partnership reactivates the training, after which she will be official. She itemized several things she's interested in pursuing:

- Continuing to work on invasive removal
- Increasing user "ownership" of the park, including making more use of the kiosks (such as posting children's art from area schools)
- Adding signage at the big bridge to encourage dog walkers to keep their pets out of the creek (perhaps incorporating children's art)
- Encouraging night photography in the park (long exposure)

Also, she reported that her neighbor is working with Hazelwood Preschool to develop a summer camp for 9/10-year-olds using the park as its focal point.

## **7. Watershed plan update**

Ryan reported that he and Vanessa have been passing a draft of introductory text back and forth and have a bit more work to do before sending it to everyone for comment. Vanessa noted that some concerns from our initial plan will be ongoing. She said they would like to put more emphasis on nearshore habitat and that she's reached out to a wetland specialist about suggesting action items for those areas. They are enthused about how it's coming together and expect to share the draft within a few days.

**Action item:** *Judy will send Vanessa what she has on the existing vegetation management plan for the park for possible updating.*

## **8. Outreach**

**In the media:** Dennis reported the *West Seattle Blog* recently published our article about emergence of home hatch, including a video by Tom. The March issue of *Neighbors* included a preview of the tree walk. Tom enlisted Sam Verbon, a photographer with better equipment for water shots, to take what is now posted on our website; he expects Sam to continue as an on-call volunteer.

**Watershed brochure:** Noting that our current brochure dates from 2021 and that some habitat conditions have surely changed, Judy said she had corresponded with forest steward Charlotte Linton

about her updating the nature walk portion this summer. Karen suggested that the update might make a great project for kids in the summer camp associated with Hazelwood.

**Action item:** *Judy will send a simple text file of the nature walk to Karen, who will pursue updating by the summer campers.*

**Watershed tour:** Judy explained that members of the Seattle Watershed Alliance have been offering tours and that we need to see if we can offer one in the fall, primarily for fellow citizen stewards. Ryan advised an emphasis on how Fauntleroy is one of the few remaining creek system closely connected to Puget Sound. Ideas expressed:

- Start at the release bridge and move down to the beach (timed according to low tide).
- Aim for September when weather will likely cooperate.
- Start building by identifying someone familiar with each area we want to highlight.
- Culminate with talk and refreshments on the Pickens/Sweetland patio.

**Action item:** *Judy will pursue these ideas with an eye toward having a solid plan by our May meeting.*

## **9. Education**

**School tank support:** Phil said that all schools except Highland Park Elementary have been doing well. The new teacher there lost most of his fish early on and Phil will be augmenting soon from Jack's supply.

**Release field trips:** Judy reported that all our releases will be on the calendar very soon. She arranged a chat with EarthCorps trainees after Pathfinder's release on May 4, an popular enhancement we offered a few times before Covid. Also, Shannon Ninburg requested a children's release on May 21 as part of her congregation's welcoming of a new rabbi; she will coordinate and use some of Jack's fish.

Judy also reported an early release. The education coordinator with the Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group negotiated with the state to release coho reared by White Center Heights Elementary in Fauntleroy Creek on March 30. Judy learned that the school got eggs a month ahead of ours, so the fry may be able to survive. Mid-Sound will run its own release. Judy has asked Brent to check trails near the release bridge for any safety concerns, and Dennis is working with Steve Winter to make sure that students can reach flow as it passes the kneeling rock. In April, she plans to repeat these requests so that all is ready when our releases start in late April.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, May 11, 6:30 pm on Zoom

**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 Fauntleroy 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 "Fauntleroy 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



**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #111, Sept. 14, 2023, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton, Ryan Lewis, Tracy Randel, Lindsey Conrad, Karen Farnsworth, Rosalie Miller, Pete Draughon, Tom Trulin, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

**1. Introductions**

**2. May minutes**

Approved as distributed

**3. Financial reports**

Dennis reported \$907.35 in our checking account at Washington Federal. Judy reported a balance of \$17,034.45 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps. Total donations to date have been \$33,217.10 and expenditures have been \$16,182.65. Given the rate of spending vs. donating, she encouraged all in attendance to consider giving.

**4. Fauntleroy Park**

Forest steward Karen reported the following:

Cambridge Street entrance: The city put in another load of chips at this problem entrance and added a large tube running beside the trail to a gravel apron to convey street runoff. The stairs now seem very stable. She and fellow steward Charlotte Linton have been weeding ivy in that area.

Fires: She expressed concern about the fire department's use of foam on recent fires; information about what is used is on the department's website and is supposed to be environmentally friendly. The most recent fire was on coir fabric laid to stabilize a slope and appeared to be set. Lindsey reported seeing evidence of someone trying to start a fire near the Barton Street entrance - another reason to keep encouraging responsible people to visit the park.

Summit study: Two classes of high-school students at Summit Atlas (35th and Roxbury) are doing a study of the effects of urbanization, including historic water diversion, on natural habitat in the park. Karen gave the students a tour and offered to post their findings on park kiosks. The students will present their reports on Zoom on Thursday, Oct. 5, between 10 am and noon; any available council members should contact Karen or Judy for the link. Phil responded to Karen's question about creek flow - that between Dec. 2021 and the present, flow has varied very little (.72 cfs) except during heavy rain.

Lindsey reported the following:

Tree walk: She guided four park visitors on the walk and plans to do a better job of publicizing the next opportunity.

Garden tour: She and Rosalie hosted an information table during June's West Seattle Garden Tour and were busy all day talking with people. They learned that many people didn't know about Fauntleroy Park. They used a laptop to show the website, plus had a brochure from EarthCorps, which is administering the \$4,700 grant we received from the tour.

Walk signage: After three of our dozen ID signs on the walk disappeared, Lindsey removed the rest and checked with the supplier about how they might be installed differently to have a better chance of staying in place. She looked into using tubes and Redi Mix and learned that Seattle Parks would need to do the installation, which couldn't happen soon. The loamy soil makes pulling them out relatively easy. Replacing the stolen signs would cost \$158.45. Discussion ensued about various options.

**Action item: Lindsey will follow up with Brent Nakamura at Seattle Parks in November (after her honeymoon) and cc Karen and Rosalie on her emails.**

Wheel access: Rosalie looked into improving access for park visitors who rely on wheels to get around (strollers, walkers, wheelchairs). Her primary contact with Seattle Parks was Amir Williams, senior trails coordinator, provided the following information:

Alley access: This entrance in the northwest corner of the park has eco blocks spaced wide enough for wheeled access but the problem is it's often muddy from a nearby seep. Various fixes have been tried over the years; he offered to take another look.

**Action item: Rosalie will follow up with Amir, preferable before salmon-release season when many students take this route out of the park.**

Coarse chips at Barton entrance: They make getting into the park very hard for anyone relying on wheels. Karen said the 97th entrance is okay until visitors come to stairs - and that some stairs in the park are in poor condition.

**Action item: Rosalie will contact Chris Nack about putting a notice on our website about areas in the park that could be hazardous for visitors with limited mobility.**

Review of surfaces: Rosalie secured a commitment from Amir to review surfacing on the two main trails leading to the release bridge in 2024.

**Action item: Rosalie will ask Amir about the feasibility of Parks' doing a full review of all main trails in the park.**

Wayfinding: Tracy reported that she received an offer from someone with just the right skills to help with this project. He recently moved from Boston to Seattle, so she's giving him time to settle in before recontacting. She has walked the trails to outline loops but needs to tap others' experience with the park in order to check that outline, starting from main entrances and focusing on the most viable trails. Safety improvements can be discussed with Parks based on the loops identified.

**Action item: Rosalie will team with Tracy to help identify trails to emphasize. Lindsey will help and they will engage Karen.**

## **5. Seattle Parks**

Brent was again not in attendance.

**Action item: Judy will contact Kristy Darcy about our need for a consistent liaison.**

## **6. Project activity**

Culverts: Judy reported that the city's replacing the creek culvert under 45th Ave. SW is an active project again; SPU is publicizing a target of 2026 for construction. Ryan expressed interest in this project and will visit the site.

Regarding the culvert under the Fauntleroy Church parking lot, she said the church and city are in negotiations intended to get the church out of the culvert business and stave off a catastrophic financial burden. She expects to have more to report in November.

Overflowing Dumpsters: The continuing concern is that, when the two Dumpsters above the culvert intake at 45th overflow (which is frequently), stuff falls into the ravine/creek below. Efforts to get building management to rectify the problem have been unsuccessful.

**Action item: Tracy will take on reporting this problem through the city's Find It Fix It app and, if necessary, reporting it as illegal dumping. Tom will assist with photos.**

Smolt wrap, salmon watch, log relocation: Dennis reported a total of 41 smolts to salt in the spring; that report is forthcoming. He has organized a log-relocation work party, with Mark Sears in the lead, for

Sept. 25 and emphasized that the safety of volunteers is uppermost. The watch will start with the annual drumming on Oct. 22; he will watch informally the week prior. He said beach fishers at Lincoln Park saw a lot of pinks and are now catching coho. Tracy added that the coho count through the locks is high.

Pete brought up the difficulty of accessing our two smolt traps as presently located. Discussion clarified the problem and produced a couple of possible responses.

**Action item: Those involved with smolt trapping will confer to come up with solutions.**

Tagging fish: Dennis reported that he and Judy had met with the head of the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, which for the first time in many years is now spotlighting this region's cutthroat population. They specifically discussed our being able to piggyback on another project in order to tag a few of our smolts to understand more about where they go when they leave the creek. Dennis will continue to track this possibility.

Update of watershed plan: Judy shared the draft of suggested projects by objective, including recent additions from Ryan. He advised more action regarding nearshore habitat, especially related to indicator species such as eelgrass. Judy noted that Washington State Ferries recently mapped eelgrass in the cove as part of its planning for the ferry-terminal rebuild; the project manager promised that we will get that report. Ryan also added monitoring of tree failures in the park because of new pathogens now on the scene.

**Action item: Judy will send the updated draft to all with a request for responses by the last week of October.**

## **7. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported an article about our stewardship fund, a call for salmon watchers, and a calendar listing about the drumming in the September issue of *Neighbors*.

Salmon releases: Judy noted that we have a volunteer willing to be our "troll docent" for classes that go to Lincoln Park after releasing their fry, emphasizing the troll's environmental message. Phil reported that the school-district's Bridges program for special-needs students is now located at the old Roxhill building. That teacher is a long-time Salmon in the Schools person and should be self-sufficient in getting students to the park and overseeing their release. Dennis mentioned a new science teacher at Guadalupe.

**Action item: Dennis will send the teacher's name and contact information to Judy and Phil.**

## **8. Volunteer opportunities**

Judy shared the current list of ways people might volunteer on behalf of the creek or park, noting that it's posted on our website. She does receive inquiries through the site and tries to make a match.

**Next meeting: Thursday, Nov. 9, 6:30 pm on Zoom**

## **Upcoming events**

**Free fall Recycle Roundup** Saturday, Sept. 23, 9 am - 3 pm @ church parking lot

**Log relocation on beach** Monday, Sept. 25, 10 am

**Summit Atlas student reports** Thursday, Oct. 5, 10 am - noon on Zoom

**Fauntleroy Fall Festival** Sunday, Oct. 15, 2-5 pm @ church/schoolhouse (salmon hats!)

**Salmon drumming** Sunday, Oct. 22, 4 pm in Pickens/Sweetland parking area

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #112, Nov. 9, 2023, on Zoom**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Tracy Randel, Karen Farnsworth, Rosalie Miller, Kathy Mutchler, Chris Nack, Tom Trulin, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Fauntleroy Church: Phil Sweetland

**1. Introductions**

**2. September minutes**

Approved as distributed.

**3. Financial reports**

Dennis reported \$860.93 in our checking account at Washington Federal after purchasing a box of all-weather paper. Judy reported a balance of \$17,034.45 in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps.

**4. Seattle Parks**

New district crew chief Jesse Bonn could not be in attendance but is very much on the job.

**5. Fauntleroy Park**

Forest steward Karen reported the following:

Cambridge Street entrance: Seattle Public Utilities funded installation of gravel and native plants by Seattle Parks to stabilize this area but subsequent heavy rain washed out the gravel. Parks is on it.

Weeding: She and fellow forest steward Charlotte Linden have coordinated a couple of small weeding parties.

Slippery slope: A slope near an open area on the north/south trail leading to the 97th St. entrance has become a slip hazard, especially for Hazelwood preschoolers who like to come there. She and teacher Gabe have the idea to extend an existing snow fence to the south and engage the students in revegetating the slope. An enchanting entrance to what some call the “owl area” could be by a small path that’s already there. She emphasized that whatever is done must take traffic patterns into account so that visitors don’t cut across vegetation.

**★ Action item: Karen will meet on site with Jesse and Gabe to devise a plan that is okay with Seattle Parks and that, if possible, includes an education component. They will consider if the project might be suitable for an Eagle Scout candidate.**

Park maps: When they arrive, she will post laminated maps in the kiosks created by Summit Atlas students (see later report) when they studied the effects of development on the park.

Tree walk: Lindsey reported that, after extensive looking, the three missing identification signs remain missing. She has ordered replacements at a cost of \$158.45 to come out of the garden-tour grant. Jesse has agreed with her concept of anchoring all the signs in concrete tubes and will schedule the work when replacements are in hand. She will let Chris know when to change the message on our website so the public knows the walk is up again. She just submitted our final grant report, with photos, to the West Seattle Garden Tour.

Wayfinding: Tracy reported that she is coordinating with Lindsey, Rosalie, and Karen to decide the best route to start with so that this project can get under way in earnest.

Wheeled access: Rosalie reported having met with Amir Williams, trails program manager for Seattle Parks. They reviewed the main east/west trail that can be reached from the Barton St. entrance as well as where visitors enter the park from the alley on the west end of that trail. They discussed the seep at the eco-blocks that mark the beginning of park property and he said he would not take action. Phil noted that Parks has tried to stem the seep there in the past because it creates a muddy area for salmon-release students who use that trail to leave the park.

★ **Action item:** *Rosalie will ask Amir to check what was tried to eliminate the seep problem.*

During their walkaround, Amir mentioned the possibility of creating a dense gravel path from the sidewalk to the kiosk to improved wheeled access (now over grass). He said he could get it installed yet this year and mentioned the possibility of its being an Eagle Scout project. Rosalie noted that the slope south from that kiosk is now paved with gravel instead of arborist chips, making it easily used by those relying on wheels. Amir also emphasized that Parks can make improvements to ensure safe use of the arterial trail to the big bridge when students come to release salmon. Judy said that Parks has always done so when we've reported a potential hazard.

★ **Action item:** *Rosalie will relay our interest in a dense gravel path between the sidewalk and kiosk at Barton St.*

## **6. Updated watershed plan**

Judy reviewed the process for drafting an updated watershed plan and thanked all who provided input, especially Ryan Lewis and Venessa Pepi for the initial draft. Judy noted that "Aspirations" are flexible enough to enable us to operate within the plan over time. Kathy raised her concern that relocating logs on the beach to enable spawners to access the mouth of the creek is not included. Judy explained that, when the state rebuilds the ferry trestle, many fewer piles will be needed for support, thus greatly reducing the chance that drift logs will be trapped there and impede spawners.

**Decision:** By consensus, we approved adoption of the updated watershed plan.

★ **Action item:** *Judy will share our updated plan with agency partners Seattle Parks and Seattle Public Utilities.*

## **7. Creek/nearshore**

Salmon watch: Dennis reported 32 spawners so far, as documented by 20 watchers. The first arrived on Nov. 4 and more have come daily, despite high predation by harbor seals and a sea lion in the cove. Watchers have seen five dead on the beach but no evidence of carcasses upstream, likely because of predation there. An open creek is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 12.

Culvert under 45th: Thanks to Tom's monitoring and Judy's reporting, Seattle Public Utilities responded right away to his report of water pooling at the creek culvert intake. An inspector came right away and found that water was flowing okay, with no evidence of another partial blockage. We are to contact the operations control center (206-386-1800) if we see more pooling.

Ferry-terminal rebuild: Judy reported the following:

- During the recent online meeting of the project's community advisory committee, the state presented several new concepts to expand the trestle for more parking while keeping the same width on the east end. The rationale was that keeping overwater coverage in that area the same would be good for eelgrass in nearshore habitat.
- Captain's Park (the bluff overlooking the terminal) is now in play as a possibility to gain a second left-turn lane for vehicles exiting the ferry onto Fauntleroy Way. Among other factors that would need to be considered, the bluff is an archeological site.
- Pre-ticketing has been well received by technical, executive, and community advisory groups. The state expects to present a detailed report on it, as well as transportation patterns, early in the new year.

- The state also expects to host community information meetings in the new year; she emphasized the importance of taking full advantage of that opportunity to provide more input.

Overflowing Dumpsters: Tracy reported having filed a Find It Fix It report about garbage going into the ravine and creek below two often-overflowing bins at the apartment building at 45th and Wildwood. The city asked her to monitor and report back, which she did, but the problem persists, likely because vehicles are often parked in the way of trucks coming to empty the bins.

★ **Action item:** *Tracy will look into getting a no parking sign on the railing.*

★ **Action item:** *Tom will talk with owners of the Wildwood Market about the feasibility of moving the bins to a location that's consistently accessible for garbage trucks.*

## **8. Education**

Summit student research: Judy reported that she and Phil listened to many student reports on Zoom by teams of seniors who studied the impacts of development on Fauntleroy Park. She commended the teacher for devising a way for students with a broad range of capabilities to participate. She now has all the PowerPoint presentations and will be consolidating them into one for posting on our website. This was the first time we've engaged with Summit and she expects we'll have more opportunities.

Boren student research: Judy reported that Shannon Ninburg and Lindsey Conrad ran simultaneous benthic and lichen studies for 50 fourth graders in Boren's STEM program. Tom agreed to take photos and ended up doing much more. When the teacher asked to bring all the students, Judy and Shannon scrambled to develop the lichen study as a way to assess air quality and spare streamside habitat from that much foot traffic. Lindsey stepped in to guide the team focused on identifying and measuring lichen at sites in the upper and lower creek. The teacher gave Shannon only a few minutes in the classroom to preview both studies; consequently, students, teachers, and chaperones arrived unprepared. The benthic team was able to get valid samples, but a debriefing by our volunteers surfaced many aspects of the lichen study that will need to be revised if students are to gain research experience and if we are to gain usable data about air quality over time.

## **9. Outreach**

In the media: Dennis reported stories on the *West Seattle Blog* about student research, the drumming, the first spawners to arrive, and the open creek. Judy noted that the Blog's coverage of the drumming went all the way to the top of Washington State Ferries because ferry workers were involved for the first time.

Web usage: Chris reported that she has been keeping up with posting and that the site has been working well. To date, usage appears to be similar to last year; she will have an full report of 2023 activity in January. Tracy offered to advise on software as Chris might need.

Volunteer recruitment/engagement: Judy reported that five of this year's 20 salmon watchers are new. Most inquiries about volunteering have come through the website. She referred one family directly to Karen for park work parties and interested another person in updating our self-guided nature walk in the park. She and Dennis have scheduled a "tea & talk" with one potential volunteer and may be joined by another.

**Upcoming open creek:** Sunday, Nov. 12, 1:00-3:00 in the spawning reach

**Next meeting:** Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30 on Zoom