

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 nyc. 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.

To audit a meeting of the community, technical, or executive advisory group, email your request to 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 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

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

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

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #116, Sept. 12, 2024, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Kathy Mutchler, John Sturtevant, Ryan Lewis, Jesse Todhunter, Tracy Randle, Chaz Hastings, Julia Stavnitski, Phil Sweetland, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

1. Introductions

2. May minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Park projects

In Karen Farnsworth's absence, Judy reported that Brian Willis is the new district crew chief, replacing Jesse Bonn. She sent Brian our list of outstanding tasks in Fauntleroy Park, with an emphasis on Parks' addressing once and for all the seep at the northwest entrance. The mud there is affecting passage by those taking the circle nature walk, those relying on wheels for access, and students exiting the park on release field trips.

She also reported having provided Find It, Fix It signs to Chris Nack and Karen for both kiosks, to serve until the upcoming wayfinding map takes over. Visitors can use the QR code on the signs to report trees across trails, camping, etc.

4. Wayfinding

Tracy provided an extensive update from her work outpost in Arizona:

About the map

- A large (30" X 20") print version will be posted in the kiosks and visitors can use an Avenza app or QR code to access the digital map on our website.
- It can easily be edited/updated in Powerpoint.
- The goal of those working on this project was to have a highly informative map without trying to do too much, which is why, for example, provide details about trail accessibility or elevation changes.

Discussion

- Tracy noted that cell-phone reception in the park appears not to be a problem.
- Phil advised double checking park boundaries with the county's official map; what is shown on the draft includes private properties.
- Chaz noted that "Indian plum" is now more sensitively referred to as "osoberry"; checking other names would be wise.
- Regarding placing more emphasis on the park as a natural area, suggestions included such language as "You are a guest in others' homes" and maybe hatch adjacent natural areas. Tracy advised that having a separate poster about wildlife in the park would make more sense, including how trees/shrubs contribute to animal habitat - an idea favorably received.

Action item: Chaz will get copies of the kiosk map made when it's ready, starting with a test run.

Action item: After the meeting, Ryan volunteered to help create a kiosk wildlife poster.

About publicizing to the community

Judy asked if it might be ready to publicize starting with a small flyer to hand out at the Oct. 20 Fauntleroy Fall Festival. Tracy advised that would likely be premature.

Action item: Judy will spearhead an article for the West Seattle Blog and also the community newsletter.

Action item: *Julia will introduce to preschool teachers on our list.*

Discussion closed with a robust thank-you to all who have worked on this project, including Tracy's colleague, Sam To!

5. Education

Preschool emphasis: Julia expressed great enthusiasm for her assignment to help preschool teachers make the most of the creek and park. She reported having contacted the nine preschools in our orbit to introduce herself and offer to help.

Atlas Summit research project: Judy reported that, thanks to Kathy's research into testing for the chemical causing pre-spawn mortality, she was able to connect the high-school science teacher at this charter school with staff at State Ecology. The upshot is a relationship that will engage students in understanding the connection, taking water samples in the creek with a DOE scientist, and assisting with data interpretation. Chaz offered to connect with the teacher about her tapping into his knowledge of wetland science for a future project.

Action item: *Judy will plant the seed of Chaz's offer with the teacher.*

Salmon in the Schools: Judy noted that a teacher at Chief Sealth International High School got in under the wire to rear fish this term. She said this connection is of particular interest for what it might add to the program's application for special-needs students.

Action item: *Jesse will work with Phil to refresh a used acrylic tank for Alki Elementary to use.*

6. Culvert replacements

Judy reported that city planning to replace the derelict creek culvert under 45th Ave. SW is progressing. Residents successfully opposed having a problematic public viewpoint on the west side of the street. One more round of public outreach is to come, 2026 being the target to start construction.

She referred people to the *West Seattle Blog's* thorough article about the agreement Fauntleroy Church struck for the city to take full responsibility for the church/city culvert in exchange for the church's ceding land to the city. The deadline for a \$7M consultant contract to reactivate the project is end of year.

7. Fish business

Dennis reported having scheduled a Sept. 21 work party to relocate drift logs on the beach so spawners can access the creek. Judy will email this opportunity to salmon watchers if more volunteers are needed. Dennis noted that fishers at the point are starting to see a few coho.

Judy said she plans to start scheduling watchers by the end of this month so that all is ready to begin on Oct. 13 with our annual drumming. She will be coordinating with musician Jamie Shilling as well as with Chaz to plan the drumming.

8. Advocacy

Judy reported that the Seattle Watershed Alliance sent a letter this summer to city elected officials about how Seattle's current tree-preservation ordinance favors developers intent on clearing their sites of trees. She also reported that Seattle Parks may propose adding "activities" to natural parks; she's on the alert for a public-comment period in 2025.

9. In the media

Dennis noted that both the *West Seattle Blog* and in the *Neighbors* community newsletter recently published culvert-related articles. The newsletter also had an article about our new preschool emphasis.

10. Money matters

Dennis reported a balance in our checking account of \$863.90. Judy reported a balance in our stewardship fund of \$16,680.90 and noted that each of our two EarthCorps maintenance days in the Kilbourne ravine cost just shy of \$3,000.

11. Good of the order

Phil mentioned an uptick in the number of unsheltered and/or unstable persons in the park and around the church. Dennis reminded all that the police are quick to respond to an unsafe situation when children are present.

Upcoming events

Saturday, Sept. 21 Recycle Roundup 9 am – 3 pm in the church parking lot

Sunday, Oct. 13: Annual drumming at 4 pm to call in spawners and launch salmon watch

Sunday, Oct. 20: Fauntleroy Fall Festival 2-5 pm in the “triangle”

Next meeting: Thursday, Nov.14, 6:30 on Zoom

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #117, Nov. 14, 2024, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Kathy Mutchler, Ryan Lewis, Jesse Todhunter, Chaz Hastings, Julia Stavnitski, Karen Farnsworth, Pete Draughon, Chris Nack, Megan Mollman Webber, Phil Sweetland, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

1. Introductions

2. September minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Education

Atlas Summit arboretum class project: A teacher with the middle/high school's Expedition program contacted us through our website about assisting with this project, and Chaz took it on as our point person. The teacher's goal is to engage her students in inventorying and mapping at least 25 species of woody plants and to assist with drafting an application to ArbNet, an international organization that encourages care for natural habitats by designating them as honorary arboreta. In pitching this alliance, the teacher noted how well the designation would align with our watershed plan. Our obligations are minimal: (1) review and submit the application, (2) meet with the class to talk about habitat and stewardship, and (3) affirm every four or five years that the arboretum continues to function. Chaz reported that he had enjoyed meeting with the class in the park and may do so again.

Action item: If he learns that additional action by us is required, Chaz will email us all.

Karen pointed out that she found one cascara buckhorn (a native tree) in the park and suggested Chaz may want to get it on the inventory.

Atlas Summit herbarium report: Judy reported that she and Rosalie Miller had met with the same class to hear reports about woody plants the students had found in the park and neighborhood, then framed. She noted how well the teacher used the project to engage students in a way that interested them.

Salmon in the Schools: Phil reported that he's working okay with a new permit person at State Fish and Wildlife and expects to have all school permits in hand about Dec. 1. Our schools will receive their coho eggs in early January. He also reported that the special-ed teacher at Chief Sealth International High School has joined the program. Together with new volunteer Ted Holmes, he will be setting up the tank in her classroom in early December. Ted is a recently retired salmon teacher (including at Westside) who also offered to mentor the teacher through her first year.

Field trips: Judy reported two school field trips related to spawning season: the class from Sealth and all students and staff from The Bridge School, a cooperative elementary in White Center. Salmon watchers came extra to support both visits and Shannon Ninburg assisted with the Sealth class. As it happened, Boren fourth graders also came during spawning season to do the annual macroinvertebrate sampling with Shannon.

Chaz asked about our reaching out to University of Washington students to do research that might be helpful to us as well as to them. Judy noted a project years ago that a graduate student had initiated.

Action item: Chaz will consider the best way for us to be proactive about students' using the creek and/or park as a practicum site.

4. Fish business

Dennis enthusiastically reported that a second wave of spawners started coming in today. Thinking the season was over, watchers went home on Nov. 10 but he and Tom Trulin continued to monitor. The 21

new fish today brought the total so far to 30, with more spotted in the cove. Mark Sears and Tom have been keeping the mouth clear of draft logs to ensure spawner access. Judy alerted all the watchers but she and Dennis decided against alerting the general public because of safety as we could not guarantee having a watcher on duty whenever visitors came. During our Nov. 3 open creek for the public, 154 visitors came, including several young students.

5. Fauntleroy Park

Projects: Karen had nothing to report about progress on requests to Seattle Parks for assistance with multiple stewardship needs.

Action item: *Judy will take over communicating with the new district crew chief, Brian Willis, especially about his addressing the seep at the alley entrance before release season.*

Campers: Judy said she had forwarded Tom's photos of two tents in the park to Brian, who recently said he had passed them on to removal specialists. She expressed concern that the two wooden viewing platforms we put in years ago with grant funding are encouraging campers, which is not safe for park visitors, especially preschoolers. Karen pointed out that having the platforms could draw campers away from damaging habitat with their campsites, a position Ryan supported.

Action item: *Judy will cease looking into removing the platforms.*

Wildlife poster: Ryan reported that he looked at a number of examples and shared two possible formats to stimulate discussion about what we would like to see for the park. Comments/questions:

- Might space used for Latin names be better used for information of greater interest?
- Emphasize that animals are our neighbors, that park visitors are in some else's home.
- Focus on species visitors are most likely to encounter; birds and fish as most visible.
- Because animals aren't always seen, point out how using scat or paw prints can identify who's been there.
- Black type on a light background is more readable than white type on a dark background.
- Position photos in the animal's natural habitat, not in boxes.
- Include macroinvertebrates in the creek as they are essential food source for juvenile coho, plus they can emphasize why letting dogs frolic in the water isn't a good idea.

Action item: *Ryan will work on poster text and Chaz will help with layout/design.*

6. Kilbourne maintenance

Judy noted that EarthCorps typically does maintenance in the ravine twice yearly and asked if someone was willing to be our point person to coordinate that work. She also expressed concern that Seattle Parks doesn't appear to be maintaining its portion of the ravine, which threatens our work. Julia offered to help as she is a ravine neighbor.

Action item: *Ryan will be our point person for the ravine and start by coordinating with Julia on a site visit to get acquainted with the ravine. He will then identify and communicate what he sees as high-priority maintenance to both EarthCorps and Seattle Parks.*

7. Ferry terminal rebuild

Judy reported that the most recent meeting of the project's community advisory group was about plans for a stoplight at the terminal entrance and also ideas about how to keep the terminal operational during construction. She noted that the state is negotiating with the county to purchase the house due north of Cove Park to use as a construction office, then as a staff break room. If so, the state would then own additional beachfront adjacent to the terminal.

8. Advocacy & outreach

Judy said the city plans to update the environmentally critical areas ordinance in 2025. As Kathy noted recently, pressure to increase density could prompt lobbying to relax requirements such as creek buffers. Judy will monitor as one of our representatives to the Seattle Watershed Alliance.

Judy also said she will be coordinating with Megan and Tracy Randle to publicize our new wayfinding tool when it's ready.

9. In the media

Dennis reported articles on the *West Seattle Blog* about the drumming and spawning season, as well as watershed news in *Neighbors*. He said in the wake of the tragic death of Patrick Sand, we committed to sending ready-to-go articles/photos to help Tracy Record manage.

10. Money matters

Dennis reported an unchanged balance in our checking account of \$860.93. Judy apologized for not having a balance for our stewardship fund as she asked too late. (Added later: Fund balance is \$16,680.90.) She noted that we've been spending more than we've been taking it, so year-end donations would be most welcome.

Next meeting: Thursday, Jan. 9, 6:30 on Zoom