

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #118, Jan. 9, 2025, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Ryan Lewis, Jesse Todhunter, Chaz Hastings, Julia Stavitski, Karen Farnsworth, Pete Draughon, Chris Nack, Phil Sweetland, Alana Khayat, Tracy Randle, Pete Draughon, Tom Trulin, John Sturtevant, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

1. Introductions

2. November minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Fish business

Dennis reported the following:

- Our record number of 347 coho during spawning season, as summarized in Alana's data analysis.
- February start of monitoring for home-hatch fry emergence, expected about Feb. 15.
- Smolt trapping will start March 15 after traps are installed.

Action item: Dennis will coordinate emergence and smolt monitoring and see that traps are installed.

Judy added that the eyed coho eggs distributed Jan. 7 have already started hatching.

4. Park projects

Wayfinding resource: Tracy reported having tested the most recent draft of the interactive map with friends on Jan. 5, using the Avenza app. Feedback included enabling users to click to details about each species on the tree walk and on each point of interest, which cannot be done on Avenza. Also, current maps in the kiosks (SW Barton and 97th entrances) are confusing.

She recommended printing a 20" X 30" color map with basic information for the kiosks. Visitors can then use a QR code on that map to reach a digital map with GPS coordinates they can use to guide them through the park and identify major plant species to click on for details. Current information on our website about species on the tree walk could also serve for other details (such as wildlife).

Action item: Tracy will contact Lindsey Conrad for help locating the exact coordinates for markers on the tree walk.

Action item: Tracy will send map content to Judy for editing and also to Chaz for another pair of eyes.

Action item: Chaz will check with his employer about his making large copies of the map on quality paper.

Action item: Tracy will correct park boundaries as needed and coordinate with her colleague, Sam To, to make sure all corrections are incorporated.

Action item: Anyone interested in trying out the draft map should contact Tracy.

Karen asked that, if we need commercial printing, we try to find a union shop. Tracy said digital print businesses are not likely to be union but that she would research if Chaz cannot make the copies.

Wayfinding publicity: We decided on the following:

Action item: Judy and Tracy will create an article for the West Seattle Blog and suggest photos for it.

Action item: Judy will draft an article for the March 1 issue of Neighbors and finalize with Tracy.

Action item: Judy will reserve a half table at the March 18 Fauntleroy Food Fest and create a take-away card or small flyer about this new resource; Julia will be there to focus on wayfinding conversations.

Action item: Tracy will get Julia up to speed so she can introduce wayfinding to local preschool teachers.

Action item: Judy will work with Chris and Tracy to introduce web visitors to this resource.

Other potential applications: Other ideas surfaced about using wayfinding to enhance education:

Action item: Judy will check with YMCA Director Cleveland King about how the Fauntleroy Y's new after-school program might want to use this resource.

Action item: Judy will work with Shannon Ninburg on how wayfinding might fit into the exploration activity during elementary-school salmon releases.

Action item: Julia will consider how wayfinding might fit into preschool releases.

Condition of kiosks: Noting that the kiosks could use attention, as could mossy signs at the two park entrances, volunteers stepped forward as follows. In addition to Seattle Parks, Chris and Karen have keys to the locked section of each kiosk.

Action item: Chris and Karen will check their respective kiosks for anything that can be taken down now so they look card for.

Action item: At Phil's suggestion, Karen will purchase and use Novus plastic polish to eliminate or reduce scratches on the Plexiglass.

Action item: Tracy will use a household cleaner to clear moss off the sign.

5. Wildlife poster

Ryan led a lively discussion aimed at giving more focus to the wildlife poster. He shared potential topic and art ideas, with feedback as follows:

- Could introduce salmon as a link between forest to Puget Sound without going into detail.
- Emphasize park as a refuge within an urban setting.
- Credit indigenous people for their long stewardship of land and water.
- Select likely-to-see animals and group them by micro-habitat (water, streambank, mid-story, etc.).
- Create a look similar to the wayfinding map so content can be interchangeable.

Action item: Tracy will check with Sam about sending Ryan his wayfinding images.

6. Work requested of Parks

Judy reported that she finally heard from Brian Willis, current district crew chief for Seattle Park about our list of requests, including graffiti on the east viewing platform, wire mesh working loose on boardwalks, and the derelict fence and eroding slope in the "owl" area. Because students' using the alley trail during release season is just four months away, she emphasized giving priority to resolving the persistent seep there. She said Brian apologized for his delayed response and said he would get right on it.

7. 2025 Kilbourne maintenance

Ryan reported scheduling a crew day with EarthCorps for late March to keep the pressure on invasive species trying to re-establish in the Kilbourne ravine. He will try to be there when the crew chief makes a site visit to scope out the work. Judy asked that they discuss in particular the condition of invasives within that portion of the ravine for which Seattle Parks is responsible so we know if we need to press for the city to keep up with maintenance.

8. Advocacy

Judy reported the following:

Net pens in the Sound: This concern made the news this week when temporary state restrictions became permanent. She had signed onto a letter advocating an end to commercial fish rearing in state waters.

Proposed citywide rezoning: She reported a strong response from this area in opposition to many provisions of the mayor's draft One Seattle Plan. She shared her letter with everyone on our volunteer list to encourage them to comment as well.

Tribal contacts: She asked if we should try to establish direct contacts with area tribes, whether for environmental concerns around increased housing density or around pressure that might weaken Seattle's environmentally critical areas (ECA) policies, now up for review. Ryan advised that advocating for specific neighborhoods is not something the tribes are likely to do but that updating the ECA is definitely on their radar.

Decision: Revisit this idea if/when contacting tribal representatives becomes more important to our work.

9. 2024 website usage

Chris reported that data from last year's web activity indicate that usage seems to have recovered from a significant dip when lesson plans moved from our site to the Salmon in the Schools-Seattle site. Most referrals were from links on the *West Seattle Blog*, and the tree walk was especially popular. More detail will be in our 2024 annual report.

10. Money matters

Dennis reported a balance of \$860.93 in our checking account with Washington Federal.

Judy reported a balance in our stewardship fund with EarthCorps of \$16,680.90 as of Dec. 31. Expenses were just shy of \$3,000 for one crew day in the Kilbourne ravine. Donations during 2024 totaled \$2,720 which was less than we spent. She plans to include a pitch for more donations in our annual report. Chaz announced that he will be donating \$200 he won during a talent show at work.

11. In the media

Dennis reported multiple articles on the *West Seattle Blog* during spawning season, as well as this week's story about egg distribution. *Neighbors* also included an article about spawning season.

12. Outreach

Judy reported the following:

New volunteers: In addition to providing data analysis the last two years, salmon watcher Alana has agreed to be our point person for events where our having an information table would be helpful. Dave Gershgorin volunteered after coming to our November open creek; he's a tech reviewer with the New York Times and has experience as a photo-journalist. He will take photographs of planned events and is interested in developing a presence for us on social media. Like Dave, 16 visitors during our open creek took our list of volunteer opportunities.

Annual report: She has started drafting our 2024 annual report and expects it will be done by the end of the month.

Action item: Dennis and John will review Judy's draft.

13. Church/city culvert

Phil reported learning today that the city is planning to do an emergency lining of the existing pipe, which is in dire condition. He noted that condition of city's clay pipe on the west end of the culvert may have prompted this decision.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 13, 6:30 on Zoom