

# FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #119, March 11, 2025, on Zoom

## ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Ryan Lewis, Jesse Todhunter, Chris Nack, Phil Sweetland, Tracy Randle, Tom Trulin, John Sturtevant, Kathy Mutchler, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

## 1. Introductions

## 2. January minutes

Approved as distributed.

## 3. Park projects

Wayfinding: Tracy reported that the map poster is ready to install in park kiosks and Chris said she will tweak the website over the coming weekend. Since the article appeared on the West Seattle Blog earlier in the week, 19 people have downloaded the map so far. Judy has been doing publicity and Julia Stavitski have been contacting preschools about this new resource.

**Action item: Tracy will equip Julia to demonstrate the resource to preschool teachers and, with her colleague Sam To, staff an information table at the upcoming Fauntleroy Community Association annual meeting and food fest.**

**Action item: Judy will provide handouts for the fest and mount a map for displaying on an easel.**

Wildlife poster: Ryan shared his early draft of this new resource about the park and feedback was very positive. In addition to species that park visitors are likely to see, he welcomed suggestions about possible additions (stoneflies and either Cooper's hawk or screech owl). He was receptive to the idea of somehow linking to bird calls on our website; Judy offered her CD of calls from the Cornell Lab. Another suggestion: Use a photo in the background to emphasize the ecosystem; Phil offered to convert it to a watercolor or other image so that it's just background, not to be taken literally.

**Action item: Ryan will modify as discussed and send his PowerPoint to Tracy, John, and Judy for further input about text and design.**

Kilbourne ravine maintenance: Ryan reported that he's coordinating with EarthCorps on a March 25 site visit to determine what needs doing this spring.

**Action item: Ryan will keep pursuing Seattle Parks about maintaining the park portion of the ravine so that invasive plants don't re-establish.**

**Action item: Judy will send Ryan details about the property on the south slope that the owner doesn't want workers to approach.**

## 4. Fish business

Emergence monitoring: Dennis reported seeing hundreds of home-hatch fry from last fall's spawning. Dave Gershgorn has taken photographs since the first sighting in late February.

Out-migration monitoring: Dennis reported that the Vornbrock family is organizing to put in our two traps so monitoring can start March 15. He welcomed other volunteers to the monitoring team; a trout net, boots, and bucket to transport smolts downstream from the upper trap are required.

**Action item: Judy will email those on our volunteer list most likely to be interested in helping and refer them to Dennis for training/scheduling.**

**Action item: Phil will set out working aerators if needed.**

Release scheduling: Judy reported that we are expecting 22 releases (including two schools doing two each) and that only one (a preschool) has yet to schedule. She will be contacting the few elementary

schools that have not yet provided details about what they want to do on release day. In response to her earlier query, nine volunteers have offered to help with releases and lunches; Dennis is responsible for booking release volunteers as needed and Judy will schedule lunch helpers. She noted that most schools have done well rearing their fish, such that some of Jack's back-up fish may be available for a community release or for a release by Summit Atlas, which has applied to join Salmon in the Schools next term.

## **5. Outreach**

Social media: Chris noted that Dave Gershgorn hasn't asked her for help activating our Instagram account.

**Action item: Judy will remind him to contact her.**

In the media: Dennis itemized recent articles on the West Seattle Blog about fry emergence, wayfinding, and installation of smolt traps.

## **6. Advocacy: One Seattle Plan**

Judy reported that the community association expects City Councilmember Rob Saka to do a van tour with FCA board members on March 20. Since he's not likely to exit the van, Tracy suggested starting with a stop at Cove Park to make the point that the creek is part of the Sound's ecosystem and that conditions are fragile for continued survival of juvenile salmon in the creek.

***Action item: Judy will make this point to the FCA organizer and also suggest including stops at salmon art to emphasize the strength of this community's commitment to keeping the creek healthy.***

Kathy raised concerns about the potential impact of the density allowed by the plan on habitat for both native species and people and advised that we collaborate with other creek systems in the city on advocacy. Judy noted that we have been doing so for several months and that she is in close touch with FCA about advocacy at future pressure points as they arise. After more discussion, Judy offered to talk further with Kathy off line.

## **7. Money matters**

Dennis reported that we have \$860.93 in our checking account. Judy said that Tracy would be submitting a bill for copies of the wayfinding map for park kiosks.

Judy reported a balance in our stewardship fund of \$16,880.90, including a recent gift of \$200 from Chaz and Anagha Hastings.

## **Upcoming events**

FCA Annual Meeting & Food Fest Tuesday, March 18, 6 pm at the schoolhouse

Recycle Roundup Saturday, April 26, 9 am-3 pm in the church parking lot

**Next meeting:** Thursday, May 8, 6:30 on Zoom **(last meeting until September)**