

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL

Meeting #126, Sept. 10, 2026, on Zoom

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Dennis Hinton (facilitator), Phil Sweetland, Diana Spence, Alana Khayat, Eric Gould, Tom Trulin, John Sturtevant, Shannon Ninburg, and Judy Pickens (scribe)

Seattle Parks: Kristy Darcy

1. Introductions

2. May minutes

Approved as distributed.

3. Garden-tour grant

Alana reported that she backed up Ellen Brown and Tracy Randle, who presented our grant proposal to about 40 West Seattle Garden Tour volunteers using a great handout and visuals. We were one of 12 applicants selected to present and grant recipients will be announced in February. Our request is for \$6,000 to support the addition of erosion-related points of interest to digital wayfinding in Fauntleroy Park and to add to our stewardship fund used primarily to control invasive plants in the Kilbourne ravine.

4. Pet-waste stations

Project coordinator John is working toward refreshing the four stations in the park as they have all fallen victim to vandalism. He will have a walk-through Sept. 24 with the Seattle Parks maintenance person assigned to replace or reseal the posts as needed. Students at the Urban Nature Preschool in the schoolhouse are collecting gallon milk jugs and bread bags. John will cut an opening in each jug so bread bags can be stuffed inside for dog walkers and will mount them on the posts, along with a small, laminated sign. The students will maintain a stash of bags for all the stations, keep the two closest to their school filled with bags, and report any condition concerns to John. He will do the same for the other two stations.

5. Maintenance activity

Kristy reported the following

- Her crew is doing the usual maintenance to get the park ready for the rainy season. Gas-powered backpack leaf blowers are being replaced with battery-powered ones.
- The thicker mesh on the boardwalks is holding up well. She is coordinating with Amir Williams on repairing sections of boardwalk that need to be restored to level new support structure.
- A new maintenance person has been assigned to the route that includes Fauntleroy Park and is getting up to speed on nuances of the park and acquainted with the scope of work there.

Action item: Kristy will do her best to see that wild clematis at the east end of Kilbourne Park is cut again as far as equipment will reach.

6. Education

Annual benthic sampling: Shannon reported that she and water-quality specialist Eric Adman will be taking samples next week from the upper and lower creek and delivering them to Summit Atlas so Ayla Wilk's students can identify and count macroinvertebrates. She and Eric met recently with the students and were very impressed with the many questions they asked. The study protocol will be more advanced than what we had been using for fourth graders and they will be able to compare their data to that from other urban creeks.

Spider learning resource: Alana described how she and Judy have been working on a guide to native spiders, initially for use during spring releases in the lower creek. It will show what the spiders look like, types of webs, and habitat.

Summit Atlas research: Judy reported that Ayla's students will be presenting their research proposals at the school on Tuesday, Sept. 22, from 1:45-3:30 pm and would benefit from anyone on our council who is interested/available.

Action item: *Judy will forward details to Shannon.*

Judy also said that Steve Winter, our volunteer hydrologist, will not only help guide the students in identifying erosion-related points of interest if we get the garden-tour grant but also give a hand if students want to collect flow data on the creek. He has access to monitoring equipment suited to their technical level.

7. Money matters

Dennis reported \$780.51 in our checking account.

Judy reported not yet receiving detailed information from EarthCorps about donations to and expenditures from our stewardship fund [current balance received Sept. 11: \$7,644.90].

Alana reported that she has been looking into the possibility of transferring the fund to another nonprofit better equipped to manage it. She will soon be meeting with someone from the Seattle Parks Foundation, which has a lower administration fee and would provide better visibility for us to fund activity. She expects to have more to report in November.

Discussion ensued about the possible merits of creating a Venmo account. Though it would not provide nonprofit status to donors, it would be a more direct route for them to give. Judy reviewed her unsuccessful experience trying to get nonprofit status for the community association because it is not a benevolent organization. Phil and John expressed interest in trying again.

Action item: *John will explore our applying for a 501(c)3 status.*

8. Scout project

Tom briefed everyone on an Eagle Scout's project to install signage near the beach where Fauntleroy Creek discharged into the cove. Feasibility research has included meeting with the very helpful person at King County overseeing Cove Park. The structure would consist of a water-resistant frame for interchangeable seasonal signage mounted to a metal post encased in a buried bucket of cement. This plan would enable it to be moved, for instance, during construction of a new ferry terminal. Mark Sears will assist in selecting the location based on tidal action and Judy will assist with sign content. The county staff person is hopeful of securing the go-ahead late this month or early next.

Action item: *If we need to help with funding, Judy will poll everyone when she has an amount.*

9. Website activity

Eric reported that summer was relatively quiet and he offered to provide usage data anytime it's needed.

10. Spawning season

Dennis reported that Saturday, Sept. 12, is the log-relocation/weeding work party to make sure spawners can access the mouth of the creek. He said the state is expecting a sizable return to the Sound and fishers are now catching coho off the beach at Lincoln Park.

Action item: *Dave will take photos during the work party and send to Judy for coverage on the West Seattle Blog; Dennis will provide details.*

Judy said the annual drumming to call in spawners will be Sunday, Oct. 25, 4 pm, which will launch the watch. Jamie Shilling is on deck to provide music and writing fish poetry will be the special activity.

Action item. *Judy will contact past watchers, include watch opportunities in information for the Blog, and post the schedule a few weeks ahead of the start.*

11. Salmon in the Schools

Phil reported that Seattle Public Utilities is now in charge of the website. Fairmount Park and Roxhill elementaries have been transferred to Longfellow under the coordination of the Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association. With help from Diana, Jack Lawless suggested updates about equipment and rearing for the teacher handbook. His advice is reflected in the 2026-27 edition, which Judy is almost finished updating. Teacher and volunteer training will be in mid October, with egg delivery to schools about the first week of January.

12. Culvert replacement activity

Judy reported that a new Port-a-Potty was delivered today to replace the one that vandals bombed recently at the 45th culvert-replacement site, where utility-related activity is under way. She also said that SPU has yet to appoint a new project manager for the upper culvert replacement.

13. In the media

Dennis said watershed news on the Blog will soon pick up as spawning season nears. [Judy added that the Sept. 1 community newsletter included a photo/cutline about upcoming refreshment of pet-waste stations in the park].

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

Upcoming

- Fall Recycle Roundup Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 am-3 pm, church parking lot
- Fauntleroy Fall Festival Sunday, Oct. 18, 1-4 pm, church/schoolhouse
- Salmon drumming Sunday, Oct. 25, 4 pm, Pickens/Sweetland parking area