

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #39, January 8, 2009, 7 p.m., Fautleroy Church

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Steev Ward, Megan Moore, Jed Moore, Steve Bomkamp, David Follis, Peggy Cummings

Fautleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland

Fautleroy Church: Randy Sleight

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker, Janine vanSanden

Fautleroy Park contractor: Steve Richmond

Facilitator: Randy Sleight

Scribe: Dennis Hinton

NOTES:

1. Introductions

2. November minutes

Approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

Dennis Hinton reported \$1,961.69 in the Council checking account.

4. In the media

Dennis reported that the KapKa kids' poop study on Fautleroy Creek was included in the *West Seattle Herald's* "year in review" highlights on December 31, 2008. Also, the Fautleroy documentary has been playing periodically on the Seattle Channel.

5. Agency updates/news

Carol Baker, Seattle Parks

Kiosk at 97th: The kiosk designated for the main south entrance to Fautleroy Park will be moved there during second quarter 2009.

Slippery boardwalk: The installation of non-skid wire mesh on the boardwalk in Fautleroy Park is complete, pending further input. Peggy Cummings suggested a couple more slippery places on boardwalk and also suggested mesh on the big bridge. Judy Pickens noted how schoolchildren sit, lie, and kneel on the edge of the bridge; Carol said they would put mesh only down the middle.

Trail conditions: Peggy reported unsafe conditions on the trail above the east end of the Forest Court bridge. Judy said the trails staff could not upgrade that part of the trail until exact placement of a new bridge is determined, which Parks will do when the easement with the church is finalized (possibly on the City Council's January agenda).

Flood news: The S.W. Cambridge entrance did not experience the erosion and flood problems of prior years, probably because Parks staff discovered a street drain that had been blocked and is now catching water as it runs down 44th.

Kathy Minsch, Seattle Public Utilities

Flood report: Seattle did not have the precipitation and flood problems that other areas in the region had during the recent storm.

Drainage site nominations: Chris May is still inviting nominations for drainage site for future attention by the city. Judy e-mailed a second request to Council members; contact her with questions.

6. Special projects

Fish tank upgrading: Judy reported that Fauntleroy resident John Garner had generously donated \$1,200 and the Watershed Council had kicked in an additional \$340 to create a fund for upgrading fish tanks for the seven public and two private schools that release their Salmon in the Classroom fish here. An account with \$170 per school was set up at B&D Aquarium in White Center. Steev Ward (who works there) reported that, to date, six schools have picked up their equipment.

Action item: Judy will contact the three other schools to urge them to go shopping before the Jan. 30 deadline, when leftover money will be available to teachers on a first-come basis.

Gatewood sampling: Jed Moore reported on the water-sampling project that he and Sinang Lee (State Ecology) are doing with fourth- and fifth-grade students at Gatewood Elementary. Teams will collect samples monthly at four stations along the creek for testing by the state for fecal coliform (part of our efforts to reduce fecal levels). Sinang's colleague, Dave Garland, joined Jed to conduct two training sessions at the school. Their December sampling was thwarted by weather, so they will start in January.

Fenton Glen restoration: Judy reported that a \$10,000 grant is eminent from King County for eradication of invasive plants over the next three years. She has applied for a grant from the King Conservation District to flesh out the 100% match required for our Aquatic Habitat grant from the city. As soon as grant contracts can be signed, a project schedule will be worked out; if possible, plant and creek work will happen this year.

7. Upper-watershed projects/news

Revegetation report/presentation: Steve Richmond reported on the contract work he is doing in the park - in sum: "I kill bad plants by using fish-safe methods and products." He said the City has ordered 1,200 conifers to plant in strategic places throughout the park and he asked for help engaging park neighbors in this effort. His idea is to solicit door to door in January for homeowners willing to plant conifers on and/or near their property - a way to get them involved and spread the work of planting and watering. At the same time, he would give them a flyer about his services.

Action items: Steve Bomcamp offered an area to use for a planting demonstration, David Follis offered to help create a database of homeowners, Judy Pickens offered to help refine the flyer, and Jed Moore offered to help coordinate in any way needed.

8. Lower-watershed projects/news

Salmon Watch 2008: Steev reported that just one coho spawner was counted in the creek this fall, down from 89 last year. He said 17 smolts were documented leaving the creek last spring for saltwater. The smolt trap will be placed in the fish ladder the first of April to document this year's out-migration.

Sea-lettuce legislation: Judy reported that an effort to apply the unused portion of the state allocation for sea lettuce removal in Fauntleroy Cove (some \$58,000) could not be carried over for further research and will revert to state coffers. (Background: No sea lettuce was removed this summer in the cove as planned because lower than expected temperatures caused little stench.) Rep. Sharon Nelson (D-34) has drafted a bill that would redirect a portion of boat-registration fees to study of/emergency response to this saltwater invasive; Judy has provided comments on the draft.

Interpretive sign: The sign to cap the reach-to-the-beach project has arrived from the manufacturer and Phil Sweetland had sufficient grant money in the account to pay Elizabeth Butler (who put the bill on her charge card). We will have further expenses when Ware Lantz fabricates a way to mount the sign on the ferry pier's south railing. That cost, combined with design costs, will likely not fully deplete the Community Salmon Fund grant.

Action item: Judy will file the necessary grant paperwork to pay remaining expenses and give back any unspent money.

Webcam idea: Elizabeth's offer to install a webcam at the reach to the beach is still a possibility. Steev mentioned a webcam maintained by the Puget Sound Skills Center (formerly the Marine Technology Center) at Seahurst Park in Burien (weather monitoring and cameras in and out of the water); have a look at www.seahurst.apl.washington.edu.

Action item: David will follow up with Elizabeth on technical aspects and report to the Council in March.

9. Executive Committee projects/news

Watershed Summit: Kathy Minsch reported on the citywide watershed summit on December 3 attended by Jed and Megan Moore, Randy Sleight, Judy Pickens, and Phil Sweetland and sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities. Purpose was to bring together all of Seattle's watershed groups to share information, successes, challenges, and partnering opportunities.

Watershed brainstorming: Kathy and Randy then led a brainstorming session on new project ideas for our watershed. Concept: When money is tight we should be planning for time when money is not tight. See the attached worksheet for ideas so far.

Action item: Judy will send the worksheet out with the minutes and put the topic on the March agenda for further input.

Next meeting: 7 p.m., Thursday, March 12, Fautleroy Church