

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #43, January 14, 2010, 7 PM, Fauntleroy Schoolhouse

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Steev Ward, Steve Bomkamp

Fauntleroy Church: Randy Sleight

Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Department of Ecology: Sinang Lee, Dave Garland

Facilitator and Scribe: Judy Pickens

NOTES:

1. Introductions

2. November minutes

Approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

Dennis Hinton submitted the following year-end report in writing, as he was scheduled to be out of town:

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
YEAR-END TREASURER'S REPORT, 2009

Beginning Balance January 1, 2009	\$ 1,961.69
Donation Deposit March 14, 2009	+ 230.00
From Elizabeth Butler	
Expense April 12, 2009	
Photocopies	- 40.00
Reimbursement to Judy Pickens	
Expense April 29, 2009	
Bus for salmon release	- 100.00
To Sanislo School	
Expense November 25, 2009	
Logjam project: Permit fee to city	- 166.00
Reimbursement to Judy Pickens	
Ending Balance December 31, 2009	\$ 1,885.69

4. In the media

On behalf of Dennis, Judy reported three items on the *West Seattle Blog* since our last meeting:

- A November article with photo of a "mystery fish" during spawning season, featuring fishing guide Dave McCoy

- December coverage of her Volunteer Recognition Award given in early December by the Southwest District Council, the Delridge District Council, and the Blog (nominated by David Follis)
- A January article with photo about delivery of Salmon in the Classroom eggs.

Judy circulated a copy of the latter, including two reader comments especially complimentary of what volunteers have accomplished in Fautleroy Park.

5. Special projects

Student macro study: Teacher Sandy Kennewick's plans to bring Arbor Heights students to the meeting to report on their macroinvertebrate study in the upper creek fell through but she did provide detailed display boards. Those present commented on how observant the students had been and noted that water temperature at the study site continues to be at or above 50°, the high point for healthy salmonid habitat.

Action item: Judy will compile the student information into report form, circulate it, and alert engineers working on Fenton Glen restoration to the temperature concern.

Salmon in the Classroom: Phil Sweetland reported that he, Judy, and Jamie Shilling from KapKa Cooperative K-2 had recently picked up eggs at the Soos Creek Hatchery for eight West Seattle public schools, plus KapKa and the Fautleroy Children's Center. Delivery to the public schools included three impromptu discussions with students about nurturing their fish for release in the creek in May. State Fish and Wildlife has now designated Phil and Judy as coordinators for West Seattle, enabling creek volunteers to be more in touch with participating teachers. Steev Ward and Jack Lawless are standing by to help teachers troubleshoot aquarium problems.

Fautleroy Food Fest: Judy reported that the Council's display for this March 23 major community event is shaping up to emphasize reducing stormwater runoff. Bob Spencer with SPU's RainWise program is poised to help (likely spotlighting cisterns), and Susan Harper with Restore Our Waters is hoping to have a complementary interactive computer program ready by then. More at our March meeting.

Earth Day: Judy said that Susan Harper has invited our Council to join Piper's Creek in a "challenge" to stencil storm drains on April 17 for Earth Day 2010. She would provide a map of drains in the watershed and might be able to get us "Dump No Waste, Drains to Sound" stencils instead of the standard "Drains to Stream," which does not apply here. Discussion ensued, leading to a decision to proceed, with the assumption that we can rally families to participate through nearby schools, the church, and Cub Scouts.

Action item: Judy will begin working with Susan Harper to flesh out the project and report at our March meeting.

6. Agency updates/news

Seattle Parks and Recreation: Carol Baker's report focused on tentative plans for doing the work associated with implementing the easement with Fauntleroy Church. The trails staff expects to replace the Forest Court tributary bridge this budget year, upgrade the approaches over the next three years, install plants to screen pedestrians from the sanctuary window, hack back ivy sufficiently to stripe the pedestrian walkway across the parking lot, gravel the fire lane, and replace the cable shutting off the fire lane with pull posts. Phil noted that the contractor working on the church remodel will need access through the fire lane for several months.

Action item: Phil will provide Carol with contact information for the contractor's project manager so that they can coordinate.

Carol also mentioned that moving an existing kiosk to the 97th Street park entrance has not been forgotten! Other priorities have gotten in the way.

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch reported considerable progress to date on updating the city's shoreline management plan. The following final reports are posted at www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/ShorelineMasterProgramUpdate/ReportsMaterials:

- Shoreline characterization
- Shoreline visioning workshops
- Citizen advisory committee meetings, with policy and response papers
- Water-dependent/water-related uses market study to determine business demand for shoreline property.

Manuals associated with the city's new stormwater code are complete and posted at <http://spuweb.ci.seattle.wa.us/stormwater/stormwatercode>. Implementing new green stormwater infrastructure to meet "maximum extent feasible" requirements of the code is expected to be a major challenge this year. SPU's Restore Our Waters program is looking at second quarter to host a third watersheds forum, this time focusing on green stormwater infrastructure. The city's combined-sewer overflow program is ramping up and will include efforts this year to educate the broader community about this stormwater concern.

Kathy also provided a glimpse at environmental issues expected to come up this legislative session, including copper brakepads, a per-barrel oil fee directed to stormwater response, and a streamlining process for state hydraulic permits. Judy noted that, in response to an alert, she had contacted 34th District legislators in support of the oil fee.

Action item: Judy will contact Council members to create a "forwarding" list for the legislative alerts she receives.

State Department of Ecology: Sinang Lee reported that DOE has awarded two grants to the City of Federal Way, roughly \$35,000 each for research into sea-lettuce blooms and response to blooms. Tim Nelson from Seattle Pacific University will be doing the research portion. She emphasized that, because the grants are small, the projects are

expected to focus only on Dumas Bay, which is in no way meant to denigrate Fauntleroy's work to secure the grant funding last legislative session. Because some \$60,000 remains available, DOE will soon be calling for additional proposals.

Kathy noted that, because of a death in the family, Maggie Glowacki with the Department of Planning and Development had been unavailable for a conversation about a city point person for beach management districts. The grant program requires a "local authority" to apply for this grant funding or to work with beachfront owners to establish a beach management district that could apply.

Action item: Kathy will pursue information about the city's role in beach management districts for our March meeting.

Sinang added that she had recently spoken with students at Denny Middle School on stormwater issues.

Dave Garland made it official: Sinang would be leaving DOE shortly for a position working in international public health. All expressed thanks for her expertise and exceptional enthusiasm in working with both the Council and students in the watershed. He expects her position to be filled and will keep us posted.

7. Upper-watershed projects/news

Fenton Glen restoration: Judy reported that she had assisted project engineers in completing the state's JARPA permit application and also had applied for the State Department of Agriculture permit needed to use an aquatic herbicide on the site. She is expecting to see initial plans soon for channel restoration.

Wayfinding signage: Judy reported having a productive meeting, arranged by Carol Baker, with Parks' grant specialist, who encouraged us to apply for a Department of Neighborhoods matching grant for signposts in the park (due Jan. 11). Because DON now requires a 100-percent match and the recycled posts are so expensive (upwards of \$400 when finished), she couldn't identify enough volunteer hours to make the match. The window for DON small-and-simple applications opens again in six months, if we can work signage into a larger project with more match potential.

8. Lower-watershed projects/news

Salmon watch: Steev Ward wrapped up Salmon Watch 2009 thusly: The 18 spawners observed included both clipped (hatchery) and non-clipped fish but, because he couldn't find most of the carcasses, he couldn't be more specific, nor comment on pre-spawn mortality. The fish were eager to go up towards the barrier at 45th and, even though Steev had free access through backyards there, he couldn't locate live or dead fish. He assumes predators got all but the two found across from the Pickens/Sweetland house. He noted differing opinions about identification of one of those carcasses (the "mystery fish") and how salmon species are not as clearcut as most people think. He will start looking for free-swimming home hatch in a few weeks.

Fautleroy Cove sand capping: Judy reported that King County will soon be putting a 4"-6" cap of clean sand above the wrack line north of the ferry terminal. It is intended to cover unwashed sand inadvertently used when the sewer line along the beach was replaced 2007; the sand became mud in the rainy season and dust in the summer. Judy had a walkaround with the project engineer to understand if the extra sand could further blanket eel grass in the cove. She then sought concurrence from others on the executive committee to give the work a do-pass because of the high-beach location of the capping.

Next meeting: 7 PM Thursday, March 11, @ the Fautleroy Schoolhouse