

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #36, March 13, 2008, 7 p.m., Fauntleroy Church**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed residents: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Steve Bomkamp, David Follis, Steev Ward, Peggy Cummings, Scott Dolfay, Peter Brooks

Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland

Fauntleroy Church: Randy Sleight

Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch, Andy Rheume

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Green Seattle Partnership: Steve Richmond

Sustainable West Seattle: Gary Lichtenstein

Facilitator: Randy Sleight

Scribe: Dennis Hinton

**NOTES**

**1. Introductions**

**2. January 10 minutes**

Approved as circulated.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis Hinton reported \$2,470.33 in the Council checking account.

Judy Pickens noted a charge to the account of some \$241 for archival supplies associated with her preparation of more than 400 creek photos destined for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

**4. In the media**

Dennis reported a reach-to-beach story and photo in the WRIA 9 winter 2008 salmon habitat recovery newsletter, *News Fit for a King*.

**5. Agency updates/news**

**Carol Baker, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation**

Trails: Carol reported that Parks trails staff has found an abrasive that will make boardwalk less slippery; it will be applied as soon as we have enough dry weather. Trails staff will also be addressing new erosion at the Cambridge Street entrance. Judy complimented the trails staff for quick follow-through on cleaning out water bars near the big bridge and putting in gravel in low spots on the trail.

Kiosk: Carol said she expects to be able soon to get to the siting of an available kiosk at the 97th Street entrance; more to come in May.

### **Kathy Minsch, Seattle Public Utilities**

City Shoreline Master Program Update: Kathy outlined this two-year process to update policies and regulations that govern development and uses on and adjacent to marine and freshwater shorelines. The public workshop for our area is March 20 at High Point. She suggested checking with Maggie Glowacki about her coming to our May meeting; Maggie is coordinating the update for the Department of Planning and Development.

***Action item: Judy will contact Maggie Glowacki about being at our May meeting.***

State of the Waters 2007: Kathy said that planning for implementing recommendations of this city's recent report on streams and small lakes is continuing. She advised having Susan Harper come to our September or November meeting to talk with us about public outreach.

***Action item: Kathy will keep Judy apprised of the best timing for us to focus on public-outreach aspects of the report.***

Puget Sound Partnership: Kathy reported that the Partnership is engaged in building an inventory of current activities, threats to the Sound, and gaps in action. The aim is an action agenda by September. So far, the process is principally for "big players" - agencies and jurisdictions.

Seattle Green Festival: Kathy announced that SPU will have a booth at this major "green" event on April 12-13 at the Washington Convention and Trade Center.

### **6. TMDL implementation**

#### **Sinang Lee, State Depart. of Ecology, and Andy Rheume, Seattle Public Utilities**

Sinang announced that DOE has done two samplings at 13 stations along the creek. Most fecal-coliform readings have been typical of urban creeks, except for one hot spot found in the second sampling. She will have a clearer picture for us in May. Detailed analysis of fecal sources is to be done in Piper's Creek, with findings applicable to other Seattle watersheds. She has been working with Judy to draft recommendations about what more we can do to help reduce these bacteria in the creek and cove. Sinang noted that one of Judy's recommendations is to install ready-made signs that emphasize the health threat of dog waste; she said she can tap an implementation fund at DOE for the cost associated (about \$25 per sign if installed on existing posts).

Andy Rheume, water quality scientist from SPU, is also working on the project. Discussion ensued about installing commercial bag dispensers for dog walkers in Fauntleroy Park. He said the city would provide a supply of biodegradable bags to volunteers willing to replenish dispensers as needed.

Judy reminded everyone that students from KapKa Cooperative will be at our May meeting to report findings from their monthly counts of dog poop, which will include a map showing all the locations where they found deposits. She noted that the simple milk-jug dispensers were installed four years ago because Parks advised that

commercial dispensers were prone to vandalism; Carol said that vandalism is still a concern. Others noted that the "put and take" system seems to be keeping enough bags in all but the Barton Street dispenser. Judy advised that, if we do install commercial dispensers, we honor what the students have done. Steve Richmond and David Follis reported rampant non-compliance with the scoop law by dog walkers using the Forest Court entrance, and David knows of one homeowner on that street who hoses his concrete dog run right onto the slope above the creek.

***Action item: Sinang and Andy will take this discussion under advisement and give the Council and Carol Baker a heads-up of any actions related to the park.***

Andy and Sinang reminded the Council of hotlines for reporting water-quality problems - **For the city: 206-684-7587. For DOE: 425-649-7400.**

### **7. City drainage assessments**

Judy briefed the Council on the city's new way of determining drainage assessments. For properties in excess of 10,000 sf, it relies on aerial photos to determine percent of impervious surface and assesses accordingly. Not even gravel qualifies as impervious, however, and the policy makes no provision for catch basins. Homeowners who handle most or all of their runoff on-site using techniques advocated by SPU for responsible stewardship are not given credit. Peggy Cummings reported a similar up-tick in her assessment, despite major use of bark surfacing. Judy said that the most assessment staff have been able to offer is an appeal process that won't be in place until next year. Homeowners who succeed in getting an adjustment still have to pay the full amount assessed this year and will not get a refund.

***Action item: Phil Sweetland is pursuing a policy change with city decision-makers.***

### **8. Green tide**

Sinang briefed the Council on plans to remove "stinky" seaweed from Fautleroy Cove. Consultant David Anderson has explored several options for how to collect the seaweed and then what to do with it when it's brought to land. He thinks he has a process that will satisfy permitting agencies. She said that DOE will send a survey to beachfront owners in two weeks to solicit input for the SEPA checklist. If a U.S. Corps of Engineers permit is not required, seaweed removal could happen here and at Dumas Bay this coming summer. She also noted that a bill to establish beach-management districts (initiated by the City of Federal Way) had passed the Legislature.

### **9. Stormwater code update**

Randy represented the Council at the city's second meeting for creek representatives, on the stormwater code updating being led by Robert Chandler of SPU. He had just been able to print out the full draft and, as a consequence, could just touch on what he saw as problem areas.

***Action item: Randy will draft a response letter to the city and present it at the next Council meeting.***

## **10. Upper-watershed projects/news**

Green Seattle Partnership work in park: Steve Richmond reported on his plot-by-plot contract work for Seattle Parks in Fauntleroy Park, which includes intensive weeding and planting of conifers and shrubs. A recent focus has been the former slide area on the north side, which was becoming overgrown with invasives. He was commended around the table for his good work. He also reported finding poison hemlock toward the south side of the park. It resembles a giant carrot and requires hand washing if touched and can be fatal if ingested.

Wayfinding signage: David presented a concept for this signage and a map showing suggested locations. Carol reminded the Council that Parks now has a standard design and post. She said that the fewer locations involved, the greater the chance that Parks staff could assist with lettering and installation.

***Action item: David will refine sign locations, draft wording for the posts, and give an update in May that includes a cost estimate.***

Youth projects and salmon releases: Judy reported that Steev Ward and Jack Lawless have helped teachers at two schools with major die-offs of salmon and one school with too many. She is scheduling releases, starting in mid April. Other projects in the works include the ongoing macro study by Gatewood, a tree planting by KapKa students, and work party with Cub Scouts to shut down a rogue trail near the Barton Street entrance. She is working with senior gardener Phil Renfrow on the latter two.

## **11. Lower-watershed projects/news**

Reach-to-beach: Judy reported that the project engineer and volunteers had finished work to stabilize the mouth until plant roots can take over. The engineer has completed the as-built drawing to use in monitoring channel structures over the next two years. The interpretive sign for the ferry pier is inching forward; artist Karen Butler provided a very preliminary sketch, which she will refine now that the as-built drawing is down.

Weir rehab: Judy reported that Chris May and Deb Heiden from SPU had assessed the reach just above the fish ladder, where log weirs installed in 1990 are eroding. They agreed work was needed but noted that maintenance funds in this year's budget had been used for something else, so the work will have to wait. Judy said that the church donated four cedar logs from a tree just taken down, which will be used in Fenton Glen or the lower reach next year.

Silt build-up: Judy reported substantial build up of silt in the fish ladder and suggested we again consider modifying flow with well-placed rocks. We decided to revisit this subject in May if spring rains have not moved the silt along. Phil mentioned a large

amount of silt in the Fenton Glen floodplain, apparently left by winter rains; the creek has cut a deep channel through it.

## **12. Sustainable Seattle**

Gary Lichtenstein introduced himself and the growing Sustainable Seattle movement, including a Sustainable West Seattle group. It will be sponsoring a festival on May 4 in conjunction with the West Seattle Farmers Market. He invited us to be represented on a panel about watersheds and left us an exhibitor application if we want to have a table.

***Action item: Judy will follow up with an offer to be on the watershed panel.***

## **13. Executive Committee projects/news**

Fauntleroy Food Fest: Tuesday, March 18, 6 p.m., Hall at Fauntleroy. Judy invited anyone interested to help with our table.

Spring Clean work party: Sunday, April 27, 11-1:00 at Cove Park. Judy said that the Green Committee at Fauntleroy Church is recruiting participation as part of a "water" emphasis in worship that day.

War games in park: Scott Dolfay showed hard plastic beads being shot by youngsters playing war games in the park. The beads are not biogradable (as advertised) and will kill if fed to baby birds. Carol emphasized that projectiles of any kind, including "Air Soft" guns, are strictly prohibited in city parks and asked that anyone seeing them in action should call her office immediately.

***Action item: Judy will write an item for the church newsletter to alert area parents to this hazard.***

### May agenda items:

Green tide and associated cove outreach pilot project  
Gatewood School student report on their macro re-establishment study  
KapKa student report on their pet-waste study  
Stormwater code response letter  
Park kiosk and wayfinding projects  
Feedback on events  
TMDL outreach activities  
Smolt trapping, salmon releases, and youth projects  
New signage at fish-ladder viewpoint

**Next meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 8, @ Fauntleroy Church**