

DRAFT

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #45, May 13, 2010, 7 PM, Fauntleroy Schoolhouse

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Steve Bomkamp, Dennis Hinton, Peggy Cummings, Chris Nack, Cathy Follis, Jack Lawless
Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland
Seattle Parks: Carol Baker, Rory Denovan
Dept of Ecology: Dave Garland, Chris Coffin
Garden Cycles: Steve Richmond

Facilitator: Judy Pickens
Scribe: Dennis Hinton

NOTES:

1. Introductions

Judy Pickens noted that Randy Sleight is taking a hiatus from Council activities to care for his parents and hopes to be back in the fall. She also said that Kathy Minsch with Seattle Public Utilities had another meeting. Steev Ward was absent because of the death of his mother; Judy passed around a condolence card for signatures.

2. November minutes

Approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

Dennis Hinton reported a balance in the Council checking account of \$1,885.69. He also reported that our account has been switched from Chase to a local bank, Washington Federal, which is paying a whopping .76 percent interest.

4. In the media

Dennis reported stories, with pix, on recent Fauntleroy Creek salmon releases on the *West Seattle Blog* and *KOMO News* website. Judy reported a Fauntleroy story about the creek in the religion column of the *Seattle Times* just before Earth Day.

5. Upper-watershed projects/news

Rory Denovan and Carol Baker reported as follows:

Forest steward: The Green Seattle Partnership needs a volunteer to work with Parks as the "outgoing" forest steward for Fauntleroy Park, coordinating neighbors and other volunteers and communicating with Parks.

Action Item: *Peggy Cummings expressed interest in being the "outgoing" forest steward for Fauntleroy Park and will get more information from the Green Seattle Partnership website and Rory.*

EarthCorps: A crew from EarthCorps is scheduled to be in the park for a one-day event on July 24, targeting the southeast corner for invasive removal.

Action Item: *Judy will help publicize the July 24 EarthCorps event, coordinating with EarthCorps staff and Rory.*

Bridge: The new bridge across the Forest Court tributary, behind the YMCA, is installed and Jacobo Jimenez (trails staff) will finish the approaches as soon as the church contractor is done using the fire lane for construction equipment. According to terms of the church/Parks easement, he will then refine the fire lane as a continuation of park trails and mark a pedestrian lane across the church parking lot. Cathy Follis and Peggy noted a sinkhole in the trail on the park side of the bridge approach.

Action Item: *Cathy will e-mail Jacobo about the sinkhole so that he can locate it.*

Stripped slope: The slope aggressively weeded by a crew from King County Corrections has been stabilized by Parks' natural-areas crew with jute matting, straw, and grass seeding. Rory also explained that the county crew was made up of misdemeanor offenders or people working off a community-service sentence, thus no notice to park neighbors was warranted. More revegetation will happen in the fall.

Kilbourne invasives: Phil Sweetland brought up the continuing problem of clematis from Kilbourne Park seeding the neighborhood, especially church grounds. Judy noted that, because of steep and treacherous slopes, EarthCorps was only able to ring the trees several years ago and used the area for rappelling training. Rory said that this park is on the long-term list for attention, noting that evidence of community interest would affect how soon it could reach the top of the list.

Action Item: *Judy will contact the property owner adjacent to the park (north side of ravine), the Fautleroy Community Service Agency, to plant a seed about the need for simultaneous invasive work on its property.*

Action Item: *Rory will e-mail Judy about possible avenues to help fund the invasive work and she will explore.*

Steve Richmond provided the following report of his crew's recent activities in Fautleroy Park:

- He used herbicides in selected areas last week to control invasives.
- The northwest five acres are looking pretty clean.
- They are nearly finished with weeding small but persistent invasives near the Barton Street entrance.
- He is waiting for the knotweed to get big enough to inject with herbicide.

Also, he noted finding human feces from time to time near the park entrance and speculated that people caught short sometimes detour into the park en route to the ferry. He advised a SaniKan.

Action Item: Judy will refer this concern to Carol Baker.

Fenton Glen restoration: Judy reported that the King County grant has been extended one year in order to meet objectives for eradicating invasives, especially the spraying schedule for yellow archangel. Steve Richmond added that he had done the initial spraying and was waiting the two weeks or so necessary before knowing how effective it was. The next spraying opportunity (according to the archangel's cycle) is June. He predicted that the archangel will be tenacious and is hoping to have big enough areas cleared for some revegetation this fall.

Judy said that all plans are in for permit review - a hydraulic permit from State Fish and Wildlife and a letter of environmental nonsignificance from the city. An EarthCorps crew is scheduled for early September to do the creek work.

6. Agency updates and news

State Dept of Ecology: Dave Garland introduced Chris Coffin, who was recently hired as Ecology's water quality lead to work in WRIAs 8 and 9 (Cedar-Sammamish and Green-Duwamish Water Resource Inventory Areas), Fauntleroy Creek being one of several streams in WRIA 9. Ours is one of many watershed groups with which Chris will be working on water quality improvement. Dave thanked the Council for working with Ecology on stream restoration and ongoing awareness about pet waste and said more water testing related to the creek TMDL (total maximum daily load) about fecal coliform bacteria is on the 2011 calendar.

Dave also noted our efforts to secure state funding for the sea lettuce problem in Fauntleroy Cove and his chagrin that, for lack of our having a beach management district or a local jurisdiction that could apply, we were shut out of the process for getting some of the resulting money. He said all the grant money had been allocated but thinks Fauntleroy will benefit indirectly from studies and seaweed removal experience that should come out of the other grant projects. Judy noted that the City of Federal Way had been gracious in opening its grant-funded work to our participation, as possible.

Street drainage: Cathy brought up the continuing problem with inadequate overflow basins at the foot of Forest Court. She said city staff had been out to have another look.

Action Item: Cathy will continue to be in touch with SPU drainage staff about this problem.

7. Special projects

Website assessment: Chris Nack reported that she is working on remodeling/updating the community website. Dennis commended her on the great work she has done and advised that, in his experience, the most important thing is keeping it up to date, which she has been doing.

Salmon-release field trips: Judy reported that she has coordinated the scheduling of more than a dozen releases with pre-school and elementary students throughout the month of May. In all, more than 400 kids will release about 2,000 coho fry in Fauntleroy Park. She has been assisted by Jack Lawless (raising fish for youngsters who don't raise their own) and Dennis (helping with field trips).

Jack said that he had put out a call to members of the Seattle Aquarium Society for unneeded equipment that could be used for school tanks.

Marine-science grant: Judy reported that the Council received a grant through the Puget Sound Partnership's EcoNet outreach network for a stewardship program for the fifth-grade class at West Seattle Elementary. The \$1,800-plus project involves a classroom presentation (6/8), a tidepool workshop at the aquarium (6/9), low-tide study at Lincoln Park (6/15), microscopic examination of a water sample from the beach (6/16), and debriefing (6/17). The goal is to engage low-income/immigrant students and their families in practical ways they can steward Puget Sound. The field trip to the beach will involve at-home parents/young siblings and a class picnic, which Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes had volunteered to prepare.

8. Lower-watershed projects/news

Smolt report: On Steev Ward's behalf, Dennis reported encouraging numbers of smolt this year in the smolt trap just above the fish ladder in the lower creek. These coho are about 4 inches long. So far, 25 have been counted, compared to counts in the teens in recent years. The highest count to date was 37 in 2003.

CSO alternatives: In response to King County's list of options for reducing and/or metering stormwater to prevent combined-sewer overflows into Fauntleroy Cove, Phil Sweetland reported that the Fauntleroy Community Association wrote a letter of endorsement for storage under the Fauntleroy School parking lot. Judy noted that controversy about alternatives north of Lincoln Park (Murray basin) had prompted the county to extend its comment deadline and schedule an all-day, drop-in opportunity in June, focusing on technical information about Murray-basin options.

Next meeting: 7 PM Thursday, September 9, likely back at Fauntleroy Church