

**FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
**Meeting #39, November 13, 2008, 7 p.m., Fauntleroy Church**

**ATTENDEES**

Watershed residents: Judy Pickens, Dennis Hinton, Chris Nack, Megan Petri Moore, Jed Moore, Steve Bomkamp, Scott Dolfay, Elizabeth Butler, David Follis, Jack Lawless  
Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland  
Fauntleroy Church: Randy Sleight  
Seattle Public Utilities: Kathy Minsch, Chris May  
Seattle Parks & Recreation: Carol Baker  
State Department of Ecology: Sinang Lee

Facilitator: Randy Sleight  
Scribe: Dennis Hinton

**NOTES:**

**1. Introductions**

**2. September minutes**

Approved as circulated.

**3. Treasurer's report**

Dennis Hinton reported \$2,301.69 in the Council checking account.

**4. In the media**

Dennis reported a "flood" of activity in the media:

- a *West Seattle Herald* article on Nov. 13 about the new Fauntleroy documentary quoting "creek champion" Judy Pickens
- Judy's TV exposure on KIRO as one of five honored environmental activists in the Seattle area
- photos, video, and story on the West Seattle Blog of the salmon drumming event
- the *Herald's* "On the Go" listing about the salmon watch, which resulted in at least three new volunteers
- inclusion of the drumming and watch on well-fingered "Upcoming Events" table tents at Endolyne Joe's.

**5. Presentation**

Judy announced that the report by Arbor Heights students on their annual sampling for macroinvertebrates in the upper creek was cancelled by their teacher's sudden hospitalization for treatment of leukemia.

***Action item: Judy will work with the substitute teacher and class to complete a written report of their research.***

## **6. Agency updates/news**

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

Funding picture - Kathy said that the utility has had a big hit in expenses and staff time associated with last winter's flooding. Meeting additional federal Clean Water Act standards associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit has required the hiring of more compliance staff people. These and other exceptional funding demands could impact how many resources are available for SPU's other environmental emphases.

Watershed Summit - SPU's Restore Our Waters program will be hosting a gathering of creek people from the city's five major watersheds on Dec. 3 at REI. So far, Judy, Phil, and Randy are signed up; others welcome.

***Action item: Judy will forward the summit invitation to Elizabeth, Jed, and Megan.***

### **Carol Baker, Seattle Parks**

Funding picture - Carol noted that this is the last year of supplemental funding from the Pro-Parks levy, which generated substantial funds for maintenance. The levy that just passed focuses more on acquisitions but maintenance funding in the general Parks budget has been beefed up in an attempt to compensate. The Green Seattle Partnership continues to be a significant help with maintenance, and it will provide funding for another year of the invasive work that Steve Richmond is doing in Fauntleroy Park (which all commended).

Maintenance - Carol said that installation of a no-skid metal mesh on sections of boardwalk in Fauntleroy Park is almost t complete.

## **7. Special projects**

Natural drainage site nominations - Chris May, stormwater and urban stream habitat lead with SPU, asked for the Council's help in identifying drainage problem areas that could be candidates for installation of natural drainage features over the next five years. Sites will be assigned a priority and be put in SPU's "queue" as funding becomes available. He explained that natural drainage systems limit the negative impacts of stormwater runoff by using plants, trees and soils to clean runoff and manage stormwater flows. He said SPU is especially looking for sites that send stormwater directly into the headwaters of Fauntleroy Creek (Fauntleroy Park and along the west side of Forest Court S.W.). He directed Council members to [www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Drainage\\_&\\_Sewer\\_System/Natural\\_Drainage\\_Systems/Natural\\_Drainage\\_Overview/index.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Drainage_&_Sewer_System/Natural_Drainage_Systems/Natural_Drainage_Overview/index.asp) for more information. He invited questions and/or nominations at [Chris.May@seattle.gov](mailto:Chris.May@seattle.gov).

***Action item: Judy will devise a way to solicit and collect site nominations from the greatest number of watershed residents possible, for forwarding to Chris.***

Homeowner assistance - Chris noted that the city is on the verge of being able to provide technical assistance to homeowners interested in reducing stormwater runoff with green roofs and rain barrels. General information at [www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/Services/Yard/Natural\\_Lawn\\_&\\_Garden\\_Care/Rain\\_Water\\_Harvesting/index.asp](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/Services/Yard/Natural_Lawn_&_Garden_Care/Rain_Water_Harvesting/index.asp). Bob Spencer (684-4163; bob-spencer@seattle.gov) expects to start offering technical assistance in the spring.

Stormwater/CSO code update - Randy reported additional refinement on the city's draft of an updated stormwater code to create infrastructure aimed at eventually eliminating combined sanitary and storm sewer systems. Bottom line: Every time we have a big storm, sewage overflows into Puget Sound, including Fauntleroy Cove. He emphasized the need for a back-up power supply at the Fauntleroy pump station for when electricity fails, resulting in such overflows.

Upgrading fish tanks - Judy reported that she is still looking for \$1,000-\$1,500 to help Salmon in the Classroom teachers upgrade their aquaria, especially heavy-duty filters that will enable them to raise all their fish to release size. Jack Lawless and Steev Ward have provided a list of ideal equipment and supplies and are prepared to help teachers with installation. Funding sources tried include King County, SPU, and the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife; the school-district science coordinator has not returned calls. Council members suggested seeking sponsorships, possibly from seafood companies.

***Action item: Judy will continue her pursuit of funding and, if successful, work with teachers to upgrade as far as the money goes.***

Gatewood research project - Judy announced that Gatewood has signed on for another research project. At Sinang Lee's suggestion, teams of 4th- and 5th-grade students will be collecting water samples from sites that DOE has been sampling to track fecal bacteria. The age-appropriate project will extend the amount of testing that DOE can afford to do. Details will be worked out soon so that sampling might start in December; students would report to the Council in May.

***Action item: Sinang Lee will take the lead in implementing this project, Jed Moore will help the students track and report data, and Judy will help where needed.***

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

Pet-waste signage - Judy announced that Center Sign Shop in White Center did a great job (at a reduced price) making a dozen 12" x 18" signs to call attention to "scooping the poop," part of outreach to reduce fecal coliform in the creek and cove. Cost was \$200 plus tax; after purchase of one post (most signs will be installed on existing posts), we will have spent some \$220 of the Council's \$300 grant from DOE. Seattle Parks will install the signs at Fauntleroy and Lincoln parks; Elizabeth asked for one to put near her house, where dog owners frequently fail to pick up after their pets. Carol noted that

commercial "mutt mitt" dispensers will not be installed in Fauntleroy Park ("put and take" milk-jug dispensers are working well) and will soon be removed from Lincoln Park as stocking them costs some \$8,000 a year.

Fenton Glen restoration grants - Judy announced that the city's Aquatic Habitat Matching Grant Program's advisory committee has given our funding application a "do pass" and that a site visit by King County's grant review committee will be next week. Assuming receipt of both grants, the project will start in January.

**Parks/church easement** - Judy said that City Council approval of the easement got stalled behind work on the budget but Parks expects conclusive action in January.

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

Sea-lettuce project - Sinang reported that two tests of the contractor's seaweed removal technique occurred in Dumas Bay at Federal Way. Because of cool weather this summer, no *ulva* bloom occurred in Fauntleroy Cove and the seaweed mat that did develop was half *ulva* and half brown kelp (not permitted for removal because of its habitat value); thus, no removal happened here. Judy said she expecting to work with Rep. Sharon Nelson to try to reallocate the leftover money for Fauntleroy (some \$60,000) for follow-up study here, especially regarding sources of nutrients that feed the seaweed (runoff from yards, currents, stormwater outfalls).

Salmon Watch 2008 - Judy reported more willing new and veteran volunteers this year but just one spawner so far, code named "Hillary." News of coho in other city creeks has been sketchy (the city has cut way back on weekly surveying by Wild Fish Conservancy) but they appear to be sparse everywhere.

Interpretive sign - Elizabeth reported that she expects the estuary interpretive sign to be done in a few weeks and that Ware Lantz stands ready to fabricate the mounting such that it can be positioned a wheelchair height on the ferry pier's south railing.

Live webcam idea - Elizabeth has offered to install a live webcam on the reach to the beach so that web users (including students) might see what's happening, especially during spawning season. Judy has queried teachers about how they might use a webcam and also King County, which had a salmon cam two years ago.

***Action item: David Follis will help Elizabeth with technical aspects of installing the webcam if it appears worthwhile.***

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

Website report - Chris Nack said that up-to-date minutes will be posted shortly and that she and Judy are working on other updates. Stats show that [www.fauntleroy.net](http://www.fauntleroy.net) (community association, creek, park, and watershed council) got more than 8,000 hits in

September and 19,000 hits in October. The "native use of native plants" worksheet has been an especially popular education tool for visitors and downloaders.

Fall Festival feedback - Turnout estimated in excess of 1,000 this year. Our salmon-hat activity was again popular with young children (150 made and proudly worn). Scoopy Doo, a dog suit work by good-natured volunteers, distributed dozens of biodegradable poop bags with a stewardship message from the Council.

**Next meeting: 7 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at Fauntleroy Church**