

FAUNTLEROY WATERSHED COUNCIL
Meeting #43, November 12, 2009, 7 PM, Fauntleroy Church

ATTENDEES

Watershed volunteers: Judy Pickens, Steve Bomkamp, Dennis Hinton, Steve Winter, Chris Nack, Megan Moore, Jed Moore

Fauntleroy Church: Randy Sleight

Fauntleroy Community Association: Phil Sweetland

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker

Guest: Joanna Nelson, Green Seattle Partnership

Facilitator: Randy Sleight

Scribe: Dennis Hinton

NOTES:

1. Introductions

2. March minutes

Approved as circulated.

3. Treasurer's report

Dennis Hinton reported \$2,051.69 in the Council checking account. Phil Sweetland reported \$13 in grant funds; Judy Pickens said she had tracked down why we have that balance and reported it to Kathy Minsch, who will advise what to do.

4. In the media

Dennis reported coverage in the *West Seattle Blog* of the salmon drumming (story, video, and pix) and of the first spawners in the creek (video and story). The *West Seattle Herald* took video of Steev Ward and Judy with creek visitors and a carcass for its website and will publish a story.

5. Presentation

Joanna Nelson, project manager for the Green Seattle Partnership, introduced herself and the Partnership's forest steward program in Seattle parks. The Partnership has a goal of restoring more than 2,500 acres of forested parklands in the city by 2025 and had completed or is working on more than 400 acres to date.

One of the Partnership's goals is to cultivate stronger citizen ties with parks. She said that Fauntleroy Park scores high on ecologic value, so the Partnership is especially interested in identifying a volunteer steward/point person here. Responsibilities would be to (1) focus volunteer energy, (2) complement contractor efforts, (3) secure supplies and equipment, and (4) network with other forest stewards to share techniques/ideas.

She recognized Steve Richmond's ongoing great work as a contractor and reported having walked the park with Steve Hodson to see the considerable work he has done as a faithful volunteer. By way of additional background, Steve Bomkamp summarized the

work parties that Friends of Fauntleroy Park organized (no longer functioning) and the individual weeding that he and other residents on the south side of the park continue to do. Jed Moore and Judy noted past work parties, including Boy Scouts, service groups, and the EarthCorps attempt to engage more park neighbors in stewardship.

Joanna said that the Partnership is also working with a consultant on educational activities that will better promote parks as classrooms.

Action item: Joanna will let Judy know details about the Partnership's upcoming orientation for forest stewards (February/March).

Action item: Judy will look into casting the net for a forest steward beyond the council by publicizing on our website, on the West Seattle Blog, and in the community newsletter.

Action item: Judy will forward the web address of the lesson plans/worksheets she has developed to Joanna.

6. Agency updates/news

Seattle Parks: Carol Baker praised the work done by the Green Seattle Partnership. She assured all attendees that all work from all volunteers is welcome, supplementing what Seattle Parks can do. She had no project updates but after the meeting did encouraged Judy to look into a neighborhood matching grant in order to move the wayfinding signage project forward.

Action item: Carol will arrange a meeting with Judy and Seattle Parks' grant coordinator before the end of the year to explore a small-and-simple grant.

Seattle Public Utilities: Because of a meeting conflict, Kathy Minsch filed the following written report:

- Having been approved by the City Council, the updated stormwater code will become effective Nov. 30. The rules are out for final public comment by Nov. 19, with the intention of having them effective simultaneously with the code. She provided contact information if anyone cared to comment beyond what we have done as a council.
- STORM, the group of jurisdictions working with the Puget Sound Partnership on public outreach, has been awarded another grant by the State Department of Ecology to extend the current media campaign through 2011. The campaign is emphasizing car washing and maintenance, natural yard care, and proper disposal of pet waste. Susan Harper is the contact at SPU.
- Susan continues to weigh options for improving communication among watershed groups in the city, perhaps a Facebook page.
- Susan and colleagues are exploring hosting another Watershed Forum early next year, with an emphasis on green stormwater infrastructure and the new stormwater code.

7. Special projects

Rain barrel demonstration project: Phil and Randy reported that one barrel was set up at a Fauntleroy Church downspout in a high-traffic area during the Oct. 18 Fauntleroy Fall Festival. Paige Heggie from People for Puget Sound (the lead on this grant-funded project) demonstrated how it works and encouraged people to enter a drawing for a free barrel provided by the Seattle Conservation Corps, a local supplier. The barrel was left at the church as ongoing encouragement for using this technique for on-site managing of stormwater.

Jed and Megan Moore reported that 20 barrels provided by the grant were given out at the demonstration at their house on Forest Court S.W., where residents live directly above a creek tributary. Most barrels, along with concrete blocks to use as platforms and soaker hoses, went to residents along that street. The winner of the barrel drawing also claimed his prize then. All received installation and use tips.

Education news: Judy had four short reports:

- Thanks to creek coverage on the *West Seattle Blog*, the preschool at Mt. St. Vincent was scheduled to come to the creek in hopes of seeing salmon and plans to be back in the spring to release fry raised by volunteer Jack Lawless.
- KapKa Cooperative K-2 is studying the seed cycle this year; teams of students will come every few weeks to explore on this theme in Fauntleroy Park.
- She is looking into the possibility of an ongoing a tidepool study as a research project for Gatewood fifth graders for what it might tell us about the health of the cove.
- Because of teacher illness, the Arbor Heights macro report will be presented in January.

Fall Festival activities and drumming: Judy reported that 172 salmon hats were made by young children attending the Fall Festival. Randy reported that some 60 people attended the drumming event, which featured a Native American button ensemble created decades ago by his mother, who was able to attend the drumming.

8. Upper-watershed projects/news

Judy reported the first billing by the consultant firm as it works on plans for restoring Fenton Glen. A work party to get started on the upper part of the site is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9:00 - 1:00.

9. Lower-watershed projects/news

Reach-to-beach plant assessment: Judy reported that Bob Keller submitted an excellent report about plant survival after the restoration. She expects a repeat of this monitoring next fall, in anticipation of the grant's expiring in Oct. 2010.

2009 Salmon Watch: Judy and Dennis reported that 17 coho spawners had been spotted in Fauntleroy Creek as of 4 p.m. that day. The first were seen Nov. 8. Steev Ward has checked two carcasses but was unable to confirm whether or not the female had spawned before of predation. About a dozen watchers expect to continue the watch until Thanksgiving. Judy credited a dozen other volunteers with clearing the

logjam at the beach and also thanked Steve Winter for assessing the fish ladder for any flow problems that might impede spawners.

Barton Street Pump Station: Randy reported that King County plans to upgrade both the Barton Street and Murray (Lowman Beach) pump stations to better handle wastewater/stormwater volume during storms and power outages, which can amount to millions of gallons of raw sewage into Puget Sound per event. A second public meeting will occur early in the new year. Construction is to be completed by 2013.

Green tide grants: Judy reported that, since Federal Way has a designated "point person" for green tide, it would be applying for grant funding through the State Department of Ecology - monies allocated last legislative session. If possible, Federal Way will include Fauntleroy Cove as a research site in its proposal. Not having a beach-management district here or the necessary structure within the city to act as a substitute, Fauntleroy could not apply. The Executive Committee did, however, provide a letter of support for a NOAA grant that Tim Nelson at Seattle Pacific University hopes to get to further knowledge of nutrients fueling sea lettuce growth here and elsewhere in the Sound.

9. Good of the order

Randy noted that the church will be undergoing a major remodeling, likely by the next meeting, so our meeting site may need to be changed. Stay tuned.

Next meeting: 7 PM, Thursday, January 14, at Fauntleroy Church