

1997 ANNUAL REPORT

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ADVOCACY

During 1997 and into 1998, FCA was center stage on three ferry-related concerns with current and long-term implications for quality of life here and throughout West Seattle:

① "Don't even consider it" was the message, loud and clear, of Seattle City Council Resolution 29566 asking the state not to expand the Fauntleroy ferry terminal. FCA worked with Councilman Charlie Chong to draft the measure and win its approval in April.

The milestone resolution followed an unparalleled show of community strength and solidarity against *any* scheme that would allow the state to manage increased demand for ferry service at the expense of Fauntleroy and West Seattle. FCA initiated and choreographed a February forum that drew senior ferry staff, elected officials, advocates from other communities, and more than 300 residents willing, as FCA President Gary Dawson put it, "to do what it takes to protect their community."

FCA officers and board members then turned their attention to the central waterfront, pushing at every opportunity for an expanded Colman Dock capable of accommodating *all* Southworth traffic. Primary targets have been Mayor Paul Shell and new members of the City Council.

② FCA focused an October general meeting on a growing traffic-control problem: exceptional queues of cars waiting to board the ferry. The resulting community-friendly ideas went "into the hopper" at a planning session called by the south police precinct. With the ferry system, Seattle Parks, and other players around the table, the goal was to be ready for summer 1998 with the most promising solutions.

③ Shortly after the turn of the year, Fauntleroy gained representation at another important table - the ferry system's citizen-advisory structure. Alerted to vacancies by King County Councilman Greg Nickels, FCA proposed three members and three

alternates for the Vashon-Fauntleroy-Southworth panel.

The appointments satisfied a key criterion not met by earlier representatives: that members be active in the communities they represent so that recommendations of the area committee, as well as the system-wide executive advisory committee, reflect local sentiment.

COLLABORATION

The year brought welcome progress in relations with ferry system staff. What started in April with a casual conversation among dock staff and neighbors cleaning up adjacent to the pier snowballed into continuing opportunities for collaboration and constructive communication.

In June, agents Phil Olwell and Brad Wells proposed reconfiguring the pier entrance, in part to make the terminal a better neighbor. Final plans due February 1999 will benefit from extensive community input.

The Cove Park project north of the pier will also benefit. Ferry-system designers, park volunteers, and King County staff began looking at the pier entrance, park, and wastewater pump station as a unit to identify how each partner might contribute to shared objectives.

FCA and terminal staff also worked together to keep management of peak ferry traffic in the hands of off-duty Seattle police officers (as opposed to on-duty State Patrol officers). In the process, ferry staff gained increased understanding of traffic-related concerns long articulated by this community, and residents gained increased understanding of peak volumes, unloading procedures, and other challenges unique to managing ferry traffic in a residential setting.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

The year saw progress turning the street end north of the ferry pier into Cove Park, a natural beach park for

(over)



MEMBER EVENTS

FCA called the community out to these events during 1997:

- January 21: General meeting on emergency preparedness.
- February 11: Community forum devoted to ferry expansion.
- April 5: "Spring Clean" work party at Cove Park/pier entrance.
- October 21: General meeting focused on the ferry queue.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS (cont'd.)

walkers and small-craft boaters. The most visible improvements were enforcement of no parking around the pump station and the addition of private-beach signage.

FCA provided \$1,500 for signage and design-related costs, which together with private gifts and a check from Puget Consumers Co-Op, launched the project financially.

If planning begun in 1997 continues without a hitch, we will have several community-friendly improvements to the ferry-pier entrance by fall 1999. They include a second toll booth, smaller pedestrian islands, signage more in keeping with community aesthetics, no portable toilet (!), and thanks to King County, a natural rockery instead of the asphalt skirt around the wastewater pump station. For more information on this project, call Mardi Clements at 932-3396.

The city kept the community well involved in planning to replace the failing Fauntleroy Creek culvert under Fauntleroy Way S.W. In January 1998 the Seattle Arts Commission selected the site for Fauntleroy's first public-art project. Artist Tom Jay's design of a "gathering place" overlooking the creek was well received by the community. Construction is scheduled for summer 1998. For more information on this project, call Judy Pickens at 938-4203.

Another environmental community improvement was the addition of three bridges over Fauntleroy Creek

in the section used for streamside education. The Westwood office of Washington Mutual provided construction funds to volunteers from the West Seattle chapter of Puget Sound Anglers, who fabricated and installed the bridges in December.

Interest in improving the natural habitat of Fauntleroy Park and increasing appropriate use of the park grew during the year, backed by publicity in the *West Seattle Herald* and an updated watershed brochure and nature walk. In addition to encouraging more Adopt-a-Park volunteers, park advocates Karen Farnsworth and Steve Bomkamp laid the groundwork for a grant that would enable dedicated coordination of park-based activities for a year, starting in January 1999. For more information on this project, call Karen or Steve at 935-5313.

With encouragement and financial support from FCA (\$250 for legal expenses), a protracted dispute over structures threatening the character of the beach on and near Brace Point was laid to rest when the city required their removal or reduction to bring them into compliance.

The summer "stench" emanating from Fauntleroy Cove returned at nauseating levels in 1997, and FCA sought the advice of local public-health specialists. They in turn sought to engage the state as a partner in devising a long-term solution to this health hazard.

COMMUNICATION

We published quarterly editions of our *Neighbors* newsletter and began using photos along with line art in support of two new features: an occasional "community personality" profile recommended by the FCA Board and a regular "neighborhood recollection" by Morey Skaret.

We backed FCA-sponsored events with flyers and handouts, published an annual report, and continually advised members how to be in timely contact with elected officials on matters of community concern.

The board limited most mailings to dues-paying households and a complementary list of elected officials and other key contacts. A "take one" display of our current publications at The Original Bakery proved to be an efficient way to market FCA to non-members.

REGULAR BUSINESS

As of April 1, 1998, FCA had 213 member households.

The FCA Board met in open session on the second Tuesday evening of the month throughout the year (except summer). To take better advantage of the skills and interests available in our neighborhood, the board expanded by four positions to a total of 10, plus three officers.

FCA representatives participated in monthly meetings of the Southwest District Council, tying Fauntleroy into the formal structure that ensures that the recognized voices of Seattle's neighborhoods are heard city-wide.

NOT A MEMBER?

Join *your* community association anytime; dues are for 12 months. Call one of FCA officers (see front) for more information.

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

ZIP+4

TELEPHONE

\$10 Individual

\$20 Household

This is a new membership.

This is a renewal.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to the **Fauntleroy Community Association**, to

FCA Treasurer Kim Suyama
8809 Fauntleroy Way S.W.
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