



# OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 16, 2019

## Call To Order:

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

## Roll Call:

Chair Rory Westberg, Secretary Thomas Hildebrandt, Council Liaison David Wisenteiner, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, and Trustee Craig Olson were present. Vice Chair Marie Bender and Trustee Geraldine Poor were absent.

Staff present were Paul West, Parks Planning Manager; Alaine Sommargren, Interim Parks Operations Manager; Andrew Prince, Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist; and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

## Minutes:

Trustee Olson motioned and Trustee Berseth seconded to: Approve the March minutes.

**Motion passed: 5-0.**

## Public Appearances:

Peter Struck submitted public comments via email, attached.

## Regular Business:

### (I) Restoration Work Plan

Natural Resources Specialist Frappier presented the 2019 Restoration Work Plan. She provided an overview of forest restoration activities planned for each quadrant outlining which projects would be done by professional contractors, the in-house seasonal crew, and volunteers. Focus of work in 2019 will be planting maintenance and watering of the new planting site in the northeast quadrant, long-term maintenance on existing comprehensive restoration sites throughout the park, as well as canopy protection measures such as ivy rings and invasive tree treatment.

#### Action Taken:

Trustee Berseth moved and Trustee Olson seconded to approve the 2019 Restoration Work Plan.

**Motion passed 5-0**

### (II) Summer Trail Work Plan

Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist Prince presented the 2019 Trails Work Plan. Work this year will focus on moving water off trails. He provided an overview of primary projects including resurfacing the fire station trail, improving and widening the Ravine Trail in the NE quadrant, and building a small length of fence along the Bridge Trail. This area has steep slopes and is heavily degraded due to dogs using as an access point into the watercourse.

#### Action Taken:

Trustee Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Berseth seconded to approve the 2019 Trails Work Plan.

**Motion passed 5-0**

(III) Off-leash dog update

Parks Planning Manager West provided an update on dog owner education efforts and off-leash dog activity. Overall, he reported that things are going well, which tells us our education efforts are paying off. Parks and Recreation is planning two more voice control classes this summer. Trustees inquired whether we are seeing an increase in impacts. Natural Resources Specialist Frappier described two areas of concern: (1) the middle of the northwest quadrant where dogs have been running through and digging up an area. Staff have observed a decline in understory vegetation and increase in bare soil. Staff installed temporary fencing and educational signs and (2) along the slope adjacent to the Bridge Trail where Trails Specialist Prince will be installing a fence to inhibit dog traffic.

(IV) Work Plan/ Meeting changes

Interim Parks Operations Manager Sommargren reported on changes to upcoming meetings. Interim City Manager Jessi Bon would like to schedule a joint meeting of the new Parks and Recreation Commission and the Open Space Conservancy Trust in September. This will likely serve as a kick-off meeting for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan. The meeting will likely be held at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. Due to this meeting change, the Eagle Scout recognition will be moved to the July meeting.

(V) Quadrant Reports

**NW Quadrant:** Trustee Berseth and Trustee Bender

Trustee Hildebrandt noted that the fence installed by the Eagle Scout in April looks very good. He suggested adding some hardware cloth on the lower section to keep dogs from entering the area. Trustee Hildebrandt also contacted an Eagle Scout candidate, Joe Lemaster, to restore the Hatheway Bench in July and August.

**NE Quadrant:** Chair Westberg and Trustee Poor

Trustee Olson observed that the guard rail on East Mercer Way came down again, likely due to a traffic accident.

**SE Quadrant:** Trustee Hildebrandt and Trustee Olson

Trustee Hildebrandt reported that the lower end of the perimeter trail is starting to erode due to moisture and horse activity. He would like to see this added to the Trails Work Plan.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2019. Elections of new officers will be held at this meeting.

**Adjournment:** 6:40 pm

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Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

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Kim Frappier, Scribe