



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 19, 2018

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, Trustee Geraldine Poor, Trustee Craig Olson, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, Council Liaison Bruce Bassett (arrived 6:05 PM). Trustee Marie Bender was absent.

Staff present were Paul West, Park Operations Superintendent, Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resources Manager, and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

Minutes:

Chair Westberg moved and Trustee Hildebrandt seconded to approve the March 15, 2018 minutes as written as well as the May 17, 2018 minutes with the addition of Trustee Hildebrandt's written statement. Motion passed: 5-0.

Public Appearances: There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) FHS Data Collection

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren provided an update on the 10-year data collection effort for the Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey. The two staff members hired to complete the data collection have been making good progress despite some challenges locating plots. Full results will be presented in the next annual report, but preliminary data may be available for plants of concern such as regenerating holly in September.

(II) Summer 2018 Trail Work Plan

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren presented the 2018 Trail Work Plan developed by Andrew Prince, the Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist. Most projects focus on dealing with water on trails such as regrading, crowning with gravel, and getting organics off the trail.

(III) Social Trail Inventory

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren presented the social trail inventory conducted by natural resources staff. The inventory was a request made by the Trust to assess the extent of social trails originating from private homes into the park. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren presented photos and a map. There are six social trails in the northwest quadrant and two in the southeast quadrant.

Discussion: Trustees discussed the feasibility and impact of decommissioning existing social trails and

discouraging the creation of new ones. Superintendent West explained that boundaries and encroachment issues came up when the park was first established. Some social trails were informally sanctioned at that time, but trails were not considered in the Pioneer Park Master Plan. Trustees discussed the need to establish a policy or guideline for how to address social trails and agreed that more information was needed. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren will contact adjacent home owners to discuss their use of the trails and report back to the Trust in September. Superintendent West will review the Pioneer Park Master Plan to clarify existing policy and aid in homeowner outreach.

Board Direction: Trustees will further discuss this issue at the September meeting.

(IV) Annual Herbicide Use Report

Natural Resources Specialist Frappier presented the 2018 Herbicide Report. The report included an overview of all herbicide used during the 2017 field season as well as the planned treatments for 2018.

(V) Off-leash Dog Status Report

Superintendent West provided an overview of the efforts made in terms of public signage and education. Park signage has been up for one year. The brochures have been reprinted and continue to get distributed at park kiosks across the City and the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. He showed pictures of some dog activity by the Don Cohen bench in the NW quadrant where dogs have been digging under the bench. This area now needs to be backfilled with gravel. Staff will follow up regarding gravel repair.

(VI) Quadrant Reports

Trustees reviewed which quadrants each board member is assigned to for meeting site visit reports. Quadrant assignments and reports are as follows:

NW Quadrant: Trustee Berseth and Trustee Bender
Trustee Berseth volunteered to provide reports for this quadrant.

NE Quadrant: Chair Westberg, Council Liaison Bassett, and Trustee Poor
Trail construction looks great. Trustees noted that trail clearing needs to be done along the dead end trail.

SE Quadrant: Trustee Hildebrandt and Trustee Olson
Trustees noted that the trails are in good shape. There is a snag that fell along the north perimeter trail that may need chainsaw work. Staff will follow-up.

(VII) Annual Election of Officers

Chair Westberg opened the floor for nominations of officers. New officers assume their roles effective immediately. The nominations were as follows:

Chair

Chair Westberg nominated himself for a second year as Chair. Trustee Hildebrandt seconded. Motion approved 6-0.

Vice Chair

Chair Westberg nominated Trustee Bender. Seconded by Council Liaison Bassett. Motion approved 6-0. Due to Trustee Bender's absence from the meeting, Chair Westberg will contact Trustee Bender to confirm whether she would like to accept the appointment.

Secretary

Trustee Hildebrandt nominated himself. Seconded by Trustee Poor. Motion approved 6-0.

(VIII) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2018.

Chair Westberg noted that the next meeting will include a staff presentation on Parks and Recreation management of other City open spaces. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren stated that she will also be doing research regarding by-law revision and will be presenting that at the next meeting.

Adjournment: 7:43 pm

Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe