



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MARCH 15, 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 Marie Bender, and Trustee Craig Olson. Vice Chair Robin Christy and Council Liaison David Wisenteiner were absent.

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

Minutes:

Secretary Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Olson seconded to:

Adopt the minutes of the January 18, 2018 meeting with noted corrections. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) 2018 Restoration Work Plan

Natural Resources Specialist Frappier presented the 2018 Restoration Work Plan for Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space. She provided an overview, including maps of the locations and tasks to be performed by professional contractors, EarthCorps volunteers, and the Natural Resources seasonal crew.

(II) OSCT Bylaws Review

Trustees inquired into why the quorum is five for the OSCT Board instead of four as it is for other boards and commissions in the City. Staff explained that the five-person quorum was established in the ordinance that created the Trust. Trustees asked how often meetings are cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Trustees discussed the timing of the election of officers. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren explained that the elections are held after the Mayor completes the board appointments, so the timing of officer elections is based on this. Section F2 of the bylaws states that elections should take place after the first regular meeting after July 1st.

Trustees also reviewed what the by-laws mandate regarding the number and timing of meetings. The by-laws call for meeting once per quarter, whereas the ordinance states "meetings will be held at least semi-annually with other special meetings occurring as needed." Trustees noted that the quarterly meetings fulfill the mandate in the ordinance and are not in conflict with it.

Trustees discussed the need to refine the language in Section 2G regarding notification of attendance at meetings. Trustees suggested the language be amended as follows: "Any trustee who fails to attend two

consecutive regularly scheduled meetings without notifying the chairperson in advance, will be deemed to have forfeited his/her position as trustee.”

Trustees discussed section 3E regarding meeting materials distribution. Chair Westberg inquired whether Trustees would prefer more time to review the agenda packet prior to the meetings. No change was suggested for this section. Trustees also discussed whether any changes need to be made to the job description for the Board position.

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren stated that any changes to the by-laws need to be publicly posted for 2 weeks. She will confirm this with the City Clerk, but instructed that the board could move to approve the changes at this time.

Secretary Hildebrandt moved and Trustee Poor seconded to:

Accept the amendment to section 2G as discussed. Motion passed 5-0.

(III) Forest Health Survey Data Collection

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren provided an overview of the methods to be used to collect data for the 10-year monitoring of the Pioneer Park Forest Health Survey. This included an overview of plot size and placement and specific vegetation data to be collected. She reviewed the project timeline including the hiring of two research assistants, data synthesis, and analysis. Data will be collected in July and August 2018. Natural Resources staff will provide a preliminary overview of the data at the September 2018 meeting. Data analysis will take place November through February with a full report to the OSCT in early 2019.

(IV) Leap for Green

Chair Westberg reviewed the details for the Leap for Green sustainability fair to be held on Saturday 4/14 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The OSCT will again host a booth. Secretary Hildebrandt, Trustee Bender, Trustee Poor, and Trustee Christy have volunteered to work at the event.

(V) Quadrant Reports

SE Quadrant – Secretary Hildebrandt asked why the two large trees that were cut down were not snagged to leave for wildlife nor the debris left on site. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren explained that this is normally the policy for large woody debris and that there must have been a miscommunication with Puget Sound Energy, who removed the trees.

NE Quadrant – no report.

NW Quadrant – Trustees raised concern over some larger blackberry thickets in the EarthCorps designated area. Staff reported that EarthCorps plans to tackle these areas in the next year.

Trustees also raised a concern regarding social trails leading from private homes into the park and would like to see this discouraged. Natural Resources Manager Sommargren noted that this is worthy of a larger conversation and will add this to the agenda for the July 2018 meeting.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2018.

Adjournment: 7:07 pm

Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe