



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Call To Order:

Chair Westberg called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call:

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

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

Minutes:

Trustee Bender requested additional detail be added to the July minutes regarding the discussion on the memorial bench to Pioneer Park NW. Trustee Bender moved and Trustee Olson seconded to:

Adopt the minutes of the July 20, 2017 meeting with additional detail regarding the reasons for making the decision, the request for symmetry of the benches, and the public benefits of the bench. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) City Board Training

City Clerk Ali Spietz provided an overview of parliamentary procedure, the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), and minutes. City Clerk Spietz and Trustees discussed when to make a motion, absenteeism, rules for communication outside meetings with other Trustees and City staff, and the number of Trustees required for a quorum. City Clerk Spietz reminded the Board that the Open Space Trust's bylaws specify that five people are required for a quorum. Trustees may discuss this requirement at a future meeting. She also noted that Council Liaison Wisenteiner is a voting member of the Trust Board.

(II) Bike Trail Resurfacing Update

Superintendent West reported that the bike trail resurfacing project is complete.

(III) Park furniture installations and repairs

Superintendent West reported that a bench installed as a memorial for Marilyn Hatheway needs renovation. He explained that the wood is rotting and needs to be replaced and would be a significant costly repair. The bench installed was unique and had original bird art included in its design. City policy dictates that after a donor pays for a bench, the City owns the bench and maintains the plaque, removing graffiti. The City does not replace a bench once it has reached 'the end of its lifespan'. This bench was installed before that policy was enacted.

Superintendent West stated that Parks staff are trying to contact the original donor to see if they want to replace the bench. He asked for the Trust Boards guidance on how they would like to handle this case. Trustees discussed the history of and policies regarding memorial benches in Pioneer Park. Trust Board members agreed to revisit this discussion in January to give staff time to contact the original donor. If the original donor cannot be found or does not want to replace the bench, Trustees will discuss a plan moving forward.

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren reported that the new bench requested for the NW Quadrant near the redwood tree will be installed in seven to eight weeks.

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren provided an overview of a new fencing project in Pioneer Park NW. The area in question, adjacent to the trailhead in the northwest corner, is heavily used which has caused soil compaction. Native vegetation has been difficult to establish. To inhibit foot and dog traffic through the site, staff propose installing a semi-permanent post and rail fence along this section of trail, approximately 130 feet in length. This will be the same style used in other parts of the park. The Trust Board discussed whether to include signage. Natural Resources Manager added that staff would include temporary educational signage on the fence and will plan to incorporate wood chips into the soil to add organic matter.

(IV) Evaluation of Trust Properties – Follow-up

Natural Resources Manager Sommargren reported that Natural Resources Staff are discussing possible recommendations for evaluating Trust Properties. Staff are taking into considering the Boards desire to use photo-monitoring as well as have quantitative data. Staff will provide recommendations at the January meeting.

(V) Quadrant Reports

NW Quadrant – Vice-chair Poor reported that the planting lead by Earth Corps looks good and that they had over 50 high school students at the volunteer event.

NE Quadrant – Trustees reported seeing trees down before and after the recent storm.

SE Quadrant – Trustee Olson reported that horse poop left on the trail is a continued problem.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2018.

Adjournment: 7:30 pm

Rory Westberg, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe