



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Call To Order:

Chair Poor called the meeting to order at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Roll Call:

Chair Poor, Vice Chair Weiker, Secretary Lanzinger, Trustee Christy, and Trustee Newman were present. Council Liaison Pottmeyer and Trustee Westberg were absent.

Staff Present:

Jason Kintner, Parks Superintendent
Paul West, Parks Natural Resource Manager

Minutes:

It was moved by Trustee Newman, seconded by Secretary Lanzinger, to:

Approve the minutes of July 16, 2015.

Motion passed 5-0.

Appearances:

Meg Lippert 4052 94th Ave SE. Meg had a few questions about the sign proposal which Abe addressed. She thanked the Trustees for their service to the Island. Meg informed the Trustees that she is a member of a new group called "Concerned Citizens for Mercer Island Parks." She explained that the group is dedicated to preserving open space on the Island. She said that the group is developing a petition to protect parks with a public vote. She read the draft to the Trustees.

Regular Business:

(I) Trail Signage Proposal – Vice Chair Weiker

Vice Chair Weiker met with Abe Newman, a boy scout, to discuss the details of a sign proposal, and he will be presenting

Abe reviewed his proposal for signage to be posted in Pioneer Park, noting areas where they would be posted and the content of the signs themselves. He also researched businesses that could produce the signs for a reasonable cost.

There were a few questions, and the Trustees gave Abe their verbal consent to go forward with the project.

It was moved by Trustee Newman, seconded by Trustee Christy, to:

Allow the scout project to occur as a pilot project for directional signage in the NW Quadrant.

Motion passed 5-0.

(II) Letterboxing Update – Robin Christy

Trustee Christy reported that she has not been able to reach members of the Letterboxing committee to get an update. Paul West reported that he and his son visited Pioneer Park to look for letterboxes in the NE Quadrant. They found 5 letterboxes and all of them were there and in good shape. Staff will talk with Diane Mortenson, Recreation Superintendent, to get a report.

(III) Trail User Education Update – Paul West

Paul West let the Trustees know that the trail yield signs were installed in the SE Quadrant of Pioneer Park. The signs are also featured in the Mercer Island Weekly this week.

(IV) Trail User Code – Preliminary Discussion – Paul West

As a result of the last meeting's discussion about the King County Trail Use Code, Paul wanted to bring the topic back and discuss what direction the Trustees would like to go regarding the subject. The Trustees discussed the issue, and there was interest in creating a similar informational product to publish on the City website to help educate trail users. Staff agreed to draft Mercer Island Trail Use Guidelines using the King County Trail Use Code for guidance. The Trustees could choose to pursue a City code change in the future, if needed or desired.

(V) Off-Leash Policy Review – Paul West

Paul West followed up with the Trustees about some questions that arose from the last meeting about the existing City policy around leashed pets.

(VI) Quadrant Reports – Trustees

Vice Chair Weiker reported the SE Quadrant looks good. Secretary Lanzinger reported that many trees were lost in the SE Quadrant in the most recent wind storm. Paul West reported that all quadrants had trees down in the most recent wind storm. Chair Poor reported that the NE Quadrant looked good. Trustee Christy reported she has not had problems with owls yet in the NW Quadrant.

Chair Poor requested an update on the Root Disease Workshop from Paul West. He said it was very well attended and the consultation resulted in some interesting feedback on snag management. Julian Dunster of B.C. commented that the snags are being left too tall for too long. Secretary Lanzinger reported noticing a tall snag that might be a problem in the SE Quadrant.

(VII) Next Meeting – Chair Poor

Trustee Newman reported that he will not be able to attend the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19th.

Adjournment: 6:57 pm

Geraldine Poor, Chairs

Attest:

Deborah Alexander, Scribe