



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JULY 16, 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, Council Liaison Pottmeyer, Trustee Christy, Trustee Newman and Trustee Westberg were present. Trustee Lanzinger was absent.

Staff Present:

Paul West, Parks Natural Resource Manager
Alaine Sommargren, Natural Resource Specialist

Minutes:

It was moved by Trustee Westberg, seconded by Trustee Weiker, to:

Approve the minutes of November 20, 2014 and April 9, 2015.

Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) Annual Election of Officers – Chair Poor

It was moved by Trustee Newman, seconded by Vice Chair Weiker, to:

Nominate Geraldine Poor for Chair.

Motion passed 6-0.

It was moved by Trustee Newman, seconded by Chair Poor, to:

Nominate Aric Weiker for Vice Chair.

Motion passed 6-0

It was moved by Trustee Newman, seconded by Vice Chair Weiker, to:

Nominate Tina Lanzinger for Secretary.

Motion passed 6-0.

(II) Letterboxing Update – Robin Christy

Trustee Christy reported that she has not been able to reach members for an update on the program, but mentioned she heard there was some difficulty with the scout project related to the replacement of the boxes, and after some discussion it was determined that the problem was remedied.

(III) Trail User Education Update – Paul West

Paul West reviewed the Staff Report in the agenda packet that summarized his work in reviewing the signage proposal. During this process it was noted that there are no comprehensive park rules posted in Pioneer Park. Trustee Newman expressed a sense of urgency in addressing the horse safety concern as soon as possible. Staff suggested placing trail courtesy signage at the entrance to the equestrian trails. It was suggested that an article in the Mercer Island Weekly be published in conjunction with the installation of the trail courtesy signage to explain why they are there and give more information.

The Trustees were going to discuss the idea of requiring that dogs be on leash in the SE Quadrant, but it was determined that a better understanding of the current City codes on the subject should be reviewed first.

The Trustees will discuss a proposed adoption of a trail user code of conduct at the September meeting.

(IV) Summer Trails Work Plan – Paul West

Paul West reported on the work that has been done on the trails so far this summer. Paul reported that he attended the International Trails Symposium in Portland, OR in May and looked at a mechanical rake device that might help with some of the trail maintenance. Staff will continue to monitor and troubleshoot as the season progresses.

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

Approve the Summer Trails Workplan.

Motion passed 6-0

(V) Herbicide Application Report – Alaine Sommargren

Alaine Sommargren summarized for the new Trustees that the Trust Board adopted an Herbicide Protocol in 2010 that dictates what kind of herbicides are used and how they are applied. The protocol also dictates how signage is used in conjunction with treatment and the guidelines for how the staff reports on herbicide use to the Trust Board. Alaine reviewed a graphic that illustrates areas that received targeted treatments. She also discussed some of the challenges that staff has been experiencing with knotweed. Alaine doesn't anticipate there will be much need for treatment in the coming year.

(VI) Forest Health Work Plan – Alaine Sommargren

Alaine did a summary of the work that was done in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space last year. Due to a favorable bidding climate in recent years, staff is ahead in the Forest Management Plan to date. Alaine reported that they had a much higher than expected plant mortality in the SE Quadrant planting that was done in the last two to three years. Staff investigated the area in an attempt to understand the problem. Some potential contributors are summer droughts, erratic weather and soil conditions. Supplemental planting was done in these areas and special care will be taken in the first year to try to improve survivability.

(VII) Proposed Bench Donation – Paul West

Paul West referred the Trustees to the letter in the Agenda Packet with a special request for a park bench. Paul summarized the existing policy and adopted potential locations map for the new

Trustees. Paul asked the Trustees if they would consider the special request. After some discussion the board took no action to revise the existing policy to accommodate a new bench location.

(VIII) Root Disease Workshop Update – Paul West

Paul West reported that in the near future there will be two experts and 80 arborists walking Pioneer Park. Paul will also receive some one-on-one consulting as well from these experts. This work will help advance root disease understanding in the region as well as hopefully help gain momentum for starting to understand the urban impact of root diseases. More is known about the rural impacts. The route is along the eastern edge of the NW Quadrant (along Island Crest Way) and the northern edge of the SE Quadrant.

(IX) Quadrant Reports – Trustees

Trustee Westberg reported seeing a lot of muddy areas in the spring that has now dried out, and remarked on how nice it is to see how much it is used. He also wondered if the bypasses on the side of the stairways is normal. Paul reported that it is not discouraged unless it becomes a problem. Council Liaison Pottmeyer was assigned the SE Quadrant. Trustee Newman reported seeing two deer on an afternoon walk.

(X) Next Meeting – Chair Poor

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17th.

Adjournment: 7:23 pm

Joel Wachs and Geraldine Poor, Chairs

Attest:

Deborah Alexander, Scribe