



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 15, 2015

Call To Order:

Chair Wachs called the meeting to order at 6:10pm in the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

Roll Call:

Chair Wachs, Secretary Weiker, Trustee Christy, Trustee Lanzinger, and Trustee Newman were present. Vice Chair Poor arrived after roll call. Council Liaison Senn was absent.

Staff Present:

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

Minutes:

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

Approve the minutes of September 18, 2014.

Motion passed 5-0

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

Approve the minutes of October 21, 2014.

Motion passed 5-0

Appearances:

There were no public appearances.

Regular Business:

(I) Agenda Amendments – Chair Wachs

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

Add two agenda items: Scout Projects and Off-Leash Dog Issue Update.

Motion passed 6-0

(II) Letterboxing Report – Chair Wachs

Chair Wachs reported that it is a dormant period for the Letterboxing Program and asked for a volunteer to work with volunteers and staff for the upcoming year. Trustee Christy agreed to fill the role.

(III) Open Space Vegetation Plan Update – Paul West

Paul West reported that the agenda packet contains a 90% Draft of the Open Space Vegetation Plan. He said that the 100% Draft is now posted on the City website. Staff is currently in a public comment period and the Plan will be presented at a public meeting on Thursday, February 5th at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center. The meeting will begin at 7pm. The comment period will end on Tuesday, February 17th. A notice of this plan has been sent to the Native Plant Stewards of the Island (including former Trustee Rita Moore) and the notice was published in the Weekly and Reporter.

The finalized Plan will go to Council on Monday, March 16th for adoption. Jason Kintner reported that the Plan will also be brought to the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee before it goes before Council. Staff encouraged any Trustee to attend the March 16th Council meeting. Chair Wachs requested copies be sent to Don Cohen, Robert Thorpe and Liz Sanderson be sent copies of the draft. Paul West agreed to do so.

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

Recognize and thank staff for the high quality work on the Open Space Vegetation Plan.

Motion passed 6-0

(IV) 2015 Work Plan – Paul West

Paul West displayed a draft of the 2015 Work Plan compiled from the comments at the last Trust Board Meeting. Vice Chair Poor requested the election of officers be moved from January to July per the discussion that took place during the Bylaws revision in 2014. Paul reported the City is working on a tree risk policy that may come before the Trustees later this year.

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

Approve the 2015 Work Plan

Motion passed 6-0

(V) Leap For Green Participation – Paul West

Jason Kintner reported that the Leap for Green event might be changing. Trustee Lanzinger expressed some concern about how the Trust Board might fit into an event where the focus was more on sustainability. Trustee Christy talked about some ideas for a kids activity. Jason said he will send out an email when he has more information about the event.

(VI) Annual Report to Council – Paul West

Paul reported that he will have a draft Annual Report for the Trustees to review at the March meeting.

(VII) Budget Update – Jason Kintner

Jason gave a short review of the CIP budget process with the City, and some of the challenges that staff faced during the process. Jason reported that some decisions may be made at the Council Planning Session that may impact the final Open Space CIP budget. Both Chair Wachs and Trustee Newman expressed an interest in demonstrating to the Council why the funds are needed in Open Space management. Vice Chair Poor suggested a letter from the Trustees might be a good approach.

(VIII) Off-Leash Dog – Jason Kintner

Deborah Alexander distributed to the Trustees via email another off-leash complaint made by a

citizen. Jason reported that he had a phone conversation with the citizen about the measures that staff has taken in an attempt to improve the situation. Jason said the citizen seemed happy with the efforts thus far, but would likely continue to engage the Council to address the issue. Trustee Lanzinger suggested requiring passes for off-leash access to Pioneer Park as a potential approach to an effective solution. Jason mentioned another off-leash complaint that he received lately from a Mercedale Park user.

(IX) Special Event – Root Disease Workshop – Paul West

Paul West referenced the Staff Report in the Agenda Packet regarding an event that ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) wants to put on. This would be a workshop for professionals and would take place over the course of two afternoons. Based on the discussion there were a number of potential issues that arose after reviewing the policy that was developed by the Trust Board. Paul West talked about each issue and suggested the Trustees make a recommendation to the Parks & Recreation Director after considering the potential impacts.

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

Recommend to the Director of Parks and Recreation the conditional approval of a special event for the ISA root disease workshop in Pioneer Park, provided that the special events policy is followed. The Director may waive fees and deposits he expects sufficient value of services offered.

Motion passed 6-0

(X) Boy Scout Project Updates – Aric Weiker

There is a scout who is interested in taking on the trail signage project. Trustee Weiker asked for assistance developing a scope of work for the project. Chair Wachs suggested the Trustees develop some key questions that the scout(s) might ask the users. Trustee Newman invited staff to contribute ideas as well. Secretary Weiker proposed a more focused survey and Trustee Newman agreed to work with him to develop it.

(XI) Quadrant Reports – Trustees

Trustee Lanzinger reported that the trail conditions are in bad shape. Paul West requested she send an email to him detailing the locations on a map. Vice Chair Poor reported seeing similar problems on the trails in the NE Quadrant and said she'd email Paul as well.

(XII) Next Meeting – Chair Wachs

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19th. Chair Wachs reminded Trustees about important dates regarding the Open Space Vegetation Plan.

Adjournment: 7:41 pm

Joel Wachs, Chair

Attest:

Deborah Alexander, Scribe