



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Bender called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM

Chair Marie Bender, Vice Chair Thomas Hildebrandt, Secretary Craig Olson, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, Trustee Ethe, Trustee Geraldine Poor, and Council Liaison Lisa Anderl participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

Staff participating remotely included: Deputy Public Works Director Alaine Sommargren, Sam Harb, Lizzy Stone, Andrew Prince, and City Clerk Deborah Estrada.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: There were no public appearances.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Staff Introductions

Staff Harb, Parks Operations Manager, and Lizzy Stone, Natural Resources Specialist, briefly introduced themselves.

2. Elections:

Motion by Bender; seconded by Olson to:

Nominate Tom Hildebrandt as Chair

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: (Anderl, Bender, Berseth, Ethe, Hildebrandt, Olson, and Poor)

Motion by Bender; seconded by Poor to:

Nominate Caroline Berseth as Vice Chair

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: (Anderl, Bender, Berseth, Ethe, Hildebrandt, Olson, and Poor)

Motion by Bender; seconded by Berseth to:

Nominate Geraldine Poor as Secretary

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: (Anderl, Bender, Berseth, Ethe, Hildebrandt, Olson, and Poor)

Marie Bender turned the meeting over to Tom Hildebrandt to chair.

3. Approve Minutes of the March 18, 2021, Special Meeting

Approval of the March 18 minutes was postponed to the September 23 meeting.

4. 2021 Trails Work Plan

Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director, provided a brief summary of the 2020 Trail Work, noting that due to the Pandemic, there were no major projects or seasonal staff and the priority was to keep trails brushed and accessible.

Sommargren outlined the 2021 Winter Storm Clean Up as a result of the mid-January wind event, which saw gusts reach 50-70 mph. As a result, there were approximately 32 trail obstructions in Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space and required 23 hours of staff labor to clean.

Additional items addressed included:

Beaked Hazelnut Pruning – Deep pruning is underway in all quadrants to address this unruly shrub that tends to encroach on trails.

Northwest Quadrant Root Intrusion – All of the dead tree roots were ground down and potential trip hazards are marked with white spray paint quarterly.

Northeast Quadrant & Engstrom OS – Ravine trail repairs include retreading, adding wooden curbs, and importing soil or gravel to fill holes.

Southeast Quadrant:

- Perimeter Trail Resurfacing
 - Muddy conditions as trail was not shedding water or organic material
 - Scraped surface until inorganic soil or gravel is uncovered
 - Imported and spread a base layer of 5/8 inch crushed rock
 - Final grading with ¼ inch crushed rock
 - Shaped to shed water
 - Wetted and compacted

The OSCT provided **direction** to erect a structure along the center gravel area to encourage people to park solely along the street and report back on the effectiveness at the September meeting.

Motion by Olson; seconded by Bender to:

Approve the Pioneer Park and Engstrom Open Space 2021 Trails Work Plan

PASSED: 7-0

FOR: (Anderl, Bender, Berseth, Ethe, Hildebrandt, Olson, and Poor)

Restoration Contracting Update

Staff outlined the contractor, Natural Resources Crew, and Volunteer Stewardship scheduled for each quadrant.

NW Quadrant:

- Invasive removal maintenance is scheduled for 3.3 acres of Pioneer NW (PP1902a)
- Ivy ring creation will continue in 3.3 acres of the NW Quadrant (PP2001)
- Watering of new plantings is slated for two sites in Pioneer Park's NW quadrant - one at the junction of the Woodpecker and Dogwood trails within PP1801 and the second is the 2020 Arbor Day planting site at the NW trailhead entrance.

NE Quadrant

- Invasive tree treatment is scheduled for 2.4 acres of the NE quadrant of Pioneer Park
- Fall planting is scheduled on 4 acres of the NE Quadrant

SE Quadrant

- Comprehensive invasive removal is scheduled in approximately 18 acres of the SE quadrant (PP0902a, PP0902b, PP0902c, and PP1001). This is consistent with benchmarks outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan which calls for 15.5 acres of ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal in 2021.
- The seasonal crew will conduct planting maintenance and blackberry knockdown in select areas of PP1002 in the SE quadrant – targeting saplings in canopy gaps where Himalayan blackberry is growing robustly and inhibiting tree survival and growth.

Engstrom Open Space

- Comprehensive invasive removal is scheduled in approximately 18 acres of the SE quadrant (PP0902a, PP0902b, PP0902c, and PP1001). This is consistent with benchmarks outlined in the Pioneer Park Forest Health Plan which calls for 15.5 acres of ground ivy and herbaceous weed removal in 2021.
- The seasonal crew will conduct planting maintenance and blackberry knockdown in select areas of PP1002 in the SE quadrant – targeting saplings in canopy gaps where Himalayan blackberry is growing robustly and inhibiting tree survival and growth.

Parking on 84th Ave SE

Staff reported that current work carried over from the 2020 Work Plan and that there is interest in eliminating gravel parking areas and moving to on-street parking. Staff reviewed the section of 84th Ave SE that was identified as a primary bike route and explained the current parking options:

North Pull-Out:

- At furthest north corner of NW quadrant
- Approximately 167 feet long
- Delineated by fence/in-ground logs
- Extending southward
- Identified in PP Master Plan
- Road narrows in this area on approach to traffic circle

Central Pull-Out:

- At intersection with SE 66th St.
- Hazelnut Trail trailhead
- Approximately 163 ft feet long
- No delineation
- Expanding significantly to the south
- Not identified in PP Master Plan

South Pull-Out:

- At furthest southwest corner of NW quadrant
- Approximately 128 feet long
- No delineation
- Identified in PP Master Plan as location for ADA parking stall
- Close to intersection with SE 68th St.
- Many 'styles' of parking

PROS Plan Update – At the July Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, Commissioners reviewed and discussed the draft capital project prioritization tool and the draft second community survey.

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) is a component of the PROS Plan and will provide a list of all of the potential parks, trails, and open space capital projects under consideration over the next 10 to 20 years.

Types of CFP projects include:

- Renovations or enhancements to existing facilities
- New facilities or amenities
- Planning projects
- Property acquisitions

The projects in the CFP will be ranked based on a prioritization tool to be developed as part of the PROS Plan process.

A more comprehensive update will be available at the September meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Quadrant Reports

No major problems reported. Trust members overall reported that the trails were easier to traverse and encouraged the City to continue making improvements.

Next Meeting

Alaine S noted that the September meeting was pushed back a week in recognition of Rosh Hashanah. The next meeting was scheduled for September 23, 2021, at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Open Space Conservancy Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM

Thomas Hildebrandt, OSCT Chair

Attest:

Deborah Estrada, City Clerk