



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Hildebrandt called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM

Chair Thomas Hildebrandt, Vice Chair Carol Lynn Berseth, Secretary Geraldine Poor, and Trustees Marie Bender, Hillary Ethe, Craig Olson, participated remotely using a video teleconferencing platform by Zoom.

Staff participating remotely included: Deputy Public Works Director Alaine Sommargren, Parks Operations Manager Sam Harb, Natural Resources Project Manager Lizzy Stone, Attorney Eileen Keiffer, Madrona Law Group

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

No public appearances

REGULAR BUSINESS:

1. Approve Minutes of the September 23rd, 2021, Meeting

Corrections:

Secretary Poor - Add Rita Moore to public appearances for Sept 23, 2021 meeting

Chair Hildebrandt - Chair Hildebrandt called the meeting to order. Deb Estrada should be changed to Andrea Larson

Alaine Sommargren - Staff participating remotely also included Merrill Thomas-Schadt, Recreation and Operations Coordinator, Lizzy Stone's job title was incorrectly listed as Natural Resources Specialist.

Motion by Hildebrandt; seconded by Bender to:

Approve the Minutes of the September 23rd meeting, as amended.

PASSED: 6-0

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

2. Code of Ethics Training and Public Records Training (combined into one presentation)

Eileen Keiffer from Madrona Law Group presented on Ethics for City of Mercer Island Officials. This presentation highlighted ethics rules in the Mercer Island City Code, as well as Revised Code of Washington laws pertaining to City Council, City Boards and Commissions and other council appointed task groups or committees. Other discussion included prohibited conduct such as conflicts of interest, improper use of city staff time or property and gifts or favors. Next, Eileen Keiffer presented on public records pertaining to city business, communications, emails, and cell phones.

3. Plant Selection for Restoration

Lizzy Stone, Natural Resource Project Manager, presented on plants to be installed at Pioneer Park, and discussed restoration planting considerations including current conditions, restoration objectives, plant palette, and plant sourcing.

4. 2022 Work Plan Draft

Alaine Sommargren, Deputy Public Works Director, outlined the 2022 Work Plan. Trustees asked staff for clarification on permanent restroom facility and Fire Management Plan items. Trustees requested that staff add several new items to the work plan: addition of new trails to Trust properties, evaluation of the 84th Ave parking project, parking at NE and SE quadrants, and an update on the Engstrom title transfer to the Trust.

OTHER BUSINESS

Quadrant Reports

Northwest quadrant - Note about number of trees that came down in storm, and commendation of staff's speed in clearing trails.

Southeast quadrant - Nothing to report.

Northeast quadrant - Paths looked clear, crew's extensive work is apparent; note about ivy starting to climb up the big leaf maples in the ravine.

PROS Plan Update (Trustee Bender, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission)

Trustee Bender recounted discussion items from the previous Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, including impermeable surfaces, mountain biking in Upper Luther Burbank park and implications for Pioneer Park, and consolidating open spaces into a single organization.

Trustee Bender also mentioned recent social media posts about coyotes. Deputy Director Sommargren reported on the recent public meeting by USDA staff and encouraged the public to report coyote issues to official city channels such as the police non-emergency line.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 2022, at 5:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Open Space Conservancy Trust, the meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM

Thomas Hildebrandt, OSCT Chair

Attest:

Andrea Larson, City Clerk