



## Meeting Minutes

Saturday December 10, 2022

The meeting started at 9:30 am hybrid in-person/zoom.



### 1. Introductions

The following people attended the FoSP meeting:

| Board Members   | Office    | Present |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|
| Paul Talbert    | President | Yes     |
| Lizabeth Coller | Treasurer | Yes     |
| Ted Weinberg    | Secretary | Yes     |
| Liz Lehmans     |           | Yes     |
| Quorum:         |           | Yes     |

Additional Attendees:

Dianne Ramsey .....Friend of Seward Park  
 Patty Borman .....Friend of Seward Park  
 Liz Van Valkenburg.....Friend of Seward Park  
 Al Smith .....Friend of Seward Park  
 Joseph Manson .....Director of Audubon Center  
 Carol Higgins .....Friend of Seward Park  
 Matt Wooten .....Friend of Seward Park  
 Tim Billo.....Friend of Seward Park

### 1. **Announcements & Introductions**

**Paul.** We might have a Garry Oak walk afterwards.

### 2. **Audubon Center Report**

**Joseph.** We're winding up the year with a conifers tree walk 12/11 and bird walks on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. Molly Hashimoto will also be holding popup events on 12/17 and 18. In 2023 we will be adding a new person to our staff: a Youth Programs Manager. This person will conduct field trip programs and teen engagement programs.





### 3. Lake Washington Boulevard Task Force



**Paul.** Per notes from Pat Killam, meeting #6 was held before Thanksgiving. Tammy Morales has asked for funding for a design for LWB in next year's budget. Morales' office is in regular communication with SDOT. Jim Curtin of SDOT presented. Unclear how much room there is on the west side of LWB and whether there should be a trail there. The task force is being encouraged to think big regarding the future design for LWB. So far, the focus has been on piecemeal solutions like fixing tree root heaves in the asphalt of the bike path. The November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be near the end of December.



**Carol.** Is there a zoom meeting 12/11 about Andrews Bay?

**Paul.** I don't know.

**Patty.** Have the results of the LWB survey been tabulated?

**Carol.** I know the survey was finished at the end of November. Not sure if it's been tabulated.

**Dianne.** Could we get a breakdown of the crash data on LWB? How much of it is vehicle-vs-vehicle? Vehicle-bike? Vehicle-pedestrian? Any fatalities?

**Liz Lehmans.** There have only been 8 bike-car collisions on LWB between Seward Park and Mount Baker Beach since 2015. 2 had minor injuries, the other 6 had no injury. So the 100 collisions referenced in SDOT's report must be for \*all\* of LWB, including Renton and Kirkland. The portion of LWB between Seward Park and Mount Baker Beach, which is all the task force is considering, is among the safest streets in the area.

**Al.** LWB goes up the hill and into the neighborhood north of Mount Baker Beach.

**Joseph.** Can we get that data?

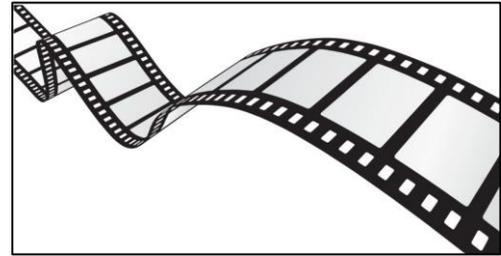
**Liz Lehmans.** It's free. Anyone can request it.

**Paul.** Part of the interest in LWB is improving ADA access.

### 4. Movie Update



**Paul Talbert.** Watched the movie last week. Trying to figure out what our goal is and what the audience is. We probably need a separate meeting for the movie. We need to determine how to balance the discussion of the beauty of the park vs fern die-off.



**Carol.** It was excellent. It did seem like 4 different films, however.

**Liz Lehman.** We were trying to discern what **audience** it was for. If we're targeting wealthy local people, focus more on how wonderful the park is.



**Carol.** Another possible audience is youth groups.

**Paul.** Daniel suggested a youtube channel. He has a lot more footage. He also suggested we hire a marketing firm to redesign our website to interact well with people.

**Carol.** I recommend we identify our targeted groups and what we want from the groups.

**Joseph.** What is the vision? Are we trying to entice an outside group to come conduct the study, or are we just trying to raise money to conduct the study ourselves?

**Paul.** We're raising money to study the fern die-off. Environmental sequencing could be the next step. Liz Van Valkenburg was thinking about a bigger vision. Getting the college of Forest Researchers to weigh in might be another goal.

**Liz Van Valkenburg.** The research on fern die-off ought to be happening beyond the park. I don't think the Friends of Seward Park can fund all that research. Keeping the existing research going makes sense. Once we're done with the sequencing, take a deep breath and think where to go next.

**Carol.** Seems like a logical next step.

**Liz Van Valkenburg.** Should we ask Marianne Elliot for a proposal.

**Paul.** Sequencing has gotten cheaper

June 2011



May 2017





over the years, but it's probably still a few hundred bucks. I can send Marianne a letter.

**Joseph.** We should show people who's in charge of the study so that people can feel safe giving their money to fund the study. It builds people's confidence in how their money's being spent. People want to see metrics measuring intended outcomes.

**Carol.** I don't think we have 2 years to generate a report. We'll lose a lot of ferns in 2 years.



**Paul.** We tried a sequencing study on rhizomes and found we didn't have enough of a sample.

**Matt.** Are there any other studies suggested other than sequencing?

**Al.** I've been working with Marianne on a leaf-hopper pathogen to see if it's a possible root cause.

**Patty.** Has the study from WSU been looked at? It suggests that it's biotic.

**Paul.** I think that was Marianne's study.

**Ted.** We've done a lot of research towards root cause. Are the possible solutions few? If so, should we pursue all such solutions in parallel and see what works?

**Paul.** We tried some replanting of ferns. We found that the ferns that got watered did well. **Snowberry** is also a hardy plant that seems to have survived the die-off. If we were to replant with snowberry would at least protect the soil.

**Matt.** When did Paul Shannon do the re-planting?

**Paul.** Several years ago. It's best to plant in the fall or winter.

**Tim.** Snowberry is pretty drought tolerant. We also planted sword ferns from the blight-resistant survivors of the original experiment. More conversation needs to happen with experts, perhaps with Patrick Tobin at the Forest Sciences Dept. I'm also in contact with Ryan Kelly, who is an expert in DNA. I'd like to find out the potential for the line of research that Marianne's recommending and what it would cost.



**Al.** Patrick Tobin did his study in Seward Park before the nymphs or adults were present.



**Tim.** This problem is probably bigger than Seward Park. We probably need to attract funds beyond the Friends of Seward Park. Having a grad student on board would be great, but you need \$100-200k per year to fund a grad student's salary and expenses.

**Paul.** It sounds like we need to decide what our goals are before we can shape the movie. So perhaps we should leave the movie alone for a bit. Let's setup a **committee** to discuss this. Who would like to be on the committee?



[Hands up from Matt, Tim, Al, Patty, Liz Van Valkenburg, and Elizabeth]

**Tim.** Maybe the movie can be left general. A donor probably doesn't need to hear detailed research plans.

**Matt.** Do we have to have only one cut of the film?

**Liz Lehmans.** The contract says 2 cuts – a 10-minute film and a 3-5 minute film. Is the replanting done today being funded by the FoSP?

**Paul.** Parks provides the plants. The volunteer hours came from Paul Shannon and Catherine Alexander.

**Liz Lehmans.** How involved is Parks in the fern die-off?

**Paul.** They've provided some money & plants, but not very helpful. They've provided a report from Paul Shannon's blog. They hired a consultant. They had Sharon Doty look at it, but she didn't engage with us on it.

**Liz Lehmans.** Do we know what potential solutions there are? Pesticides?



**Paul.** If we find a pathogen, we could use a **fungicide**. If we find an insect, there may be **insecticides**. Applying the solution across the Puget Sound basin isn't all that practical. There could be a climate change component, but then one would expect that more plants would have been affected, not just the sword ferns. Mountain beavers were suspected at one point, but we haven't found any evidence to support that hypothesis. We also measured soil moisture.



**Al.** It could be a wasp that goes after other insects.



**Paul.** So, the people interested in joining a Ferns-Movie subcommittee include Matt, Tim, Patty, Al, Liz Van Valkenburg, Lizabeth, and myself. We'll also reach out to Marianne.

**Dianne.** We could reach out to other community councils.

**Paul.** Mercer Island was somewhat involved in this. Ferns seem to be dying across the Puget Sound region.

**Dianne.** At some point you're going to want financial support. Community Councils from Madison Park south are aware that you're going to be looking for that support.

**Paul.** Ok. Sounds like we should do more outreach.

**Tim.** Bainbridge Island is also quite interested. I got an outreach from a potential donor on Mercer Island last week.

**Paul.** We do owe Daniel some money for the film work. I'll request an itemization so that we can write him a check.



**Liz Lehmans.** In summer 2024, Seattle is hosting the **Greater and Greener Conference**. There will be a focus on equity and sustainability. It's a big deal for the Parks Dept.



**Paul.** Did you want us to meet with the new superintendent (**Anthony-Paul Diaz**)?

**Liz Lehmans.** In the new year we should reach out.

**Paul.** When should the ferns subcommittee meet?

**Matt.** January would be best.

**Tim.** I'll try to talk with an expert at the UW before our meeting. The 2024 conference could be a great impetus for funding the long version of the movie. Everything we do here in Seward Park is emblematic of urban parks.

## 5. Seattle Parks Foundation

**Paul.** Our fiscal sponsor fee is going up from 8% to 10%. They do provide insurance for anything useful that we do. They charge 12-



15% for especially complex projects. They have a new contract they want us to sign. I've updated their website with information about our forest health project.



**Liz Lehmans.** What's the pro-con between using SPF or **Mountains to Sound Greenway**?



**Paul.** I don't know much about Mountains to Sound Greenway yet. Paul Shannon knows more about them. There are likely differences in what cut they take and what services they provide.

**Ted.** Any **contract** needs to be read thoroughly by all board members before we sign it. I'd be concerned about SPF getting a 10% cut on all our activities. If we can continue to receive donations directly, great. If not, we might want to hold off until we have a big-ticket project like the torii again.

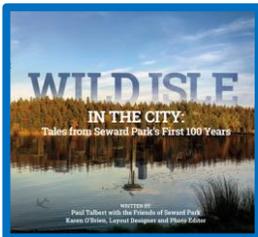


**Lizabeth.** SPF needs to sell themselves to us. Daniel recommended we consider getting a marketing person. SPF has a marketing person. Perhaps they can help us.

**Paul.** I don't have the contract yet, but SPF wants us to sign it by the end of the year.

**Ted.** That's not realistic. They need to send us the contract, then we'll define the timeline for when we'll review and sign it. If they don't like it, we do have alternative partners with whom we can work.

## 7. Business License Renewal



**Paul Talbert.** We recently renewed our business license. We only need a business license for selling books. We're down to about 20 copies of the Wild Isle book. We should consider printing more at some point. It's \$65 per year.

**Ted.** The **Wild Isle book** is going to be a long-lived thing. As people move into the area over the years, they're going to want to buy a copy. It won't sell millions of copies, but we should see a dozen or so a year, perhaps. I think maintaining our business license is a good investment.



**Carol.** It could be a popular item at the 2024 **Greater and Greener** conference.

## 8. Andrews Bay Report



**Patty.** Is the FoSP addressing the number of boats in the bay? Not sure who made the short video that documented that.



**Paul.** The group that was interested in Andrews Bay was primarily interested in the noise. We raised money, hired the harbor patrol, and it made a difference. We've raised concerns that it's not sustainable for FoSP to fund this every year, but we've received no response from the city so far. We might approach Seattle Emerald and the Seattle Met to see if they're interested in raising the issue. Seattle Met is more interested in the LWB issue. The middle of winter is probably not the best time to work on Andrews Bay, as it's primarily a summer-time issue.

**Carol.** I'm on the Andrews Bay committee. It's not just noise. We're also concerned about pollution.

**Paul.** There have been up to 300 boats out there. I'd prefer if it were limited to 15-25. The actual focus has been on the noise, not the number. Controlling the number would require issuing permits. That doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to advocate for it, though.

**Patty.** I'd be happy to help with emailing people to drum up more support. My email address is: [lunacat13@earthlink.net](mailto:lunacat13@earthlink.net).

**Liz Lehman.** Despite all our efforts to lobby with Tammy Morales' office, all she's given us is \$50,000 for buoys, which doesn't include installation.

**Paul.** Following up with Tammy Morales to determine what the status of the buoys are would be useful. The Andrews Bay group meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month. It's a zoom meeting like this one.



## 6. Monthly Reports



### Treasurer's Report

**Lizabeth.** A little over \$35,000. We have a few outstanding bills to pay. We got some money from Amazon -- ~\$25.

**Paul.** SPF contributions from Giving Tuesday. Carol gave \$50.



**Secretary's Report**

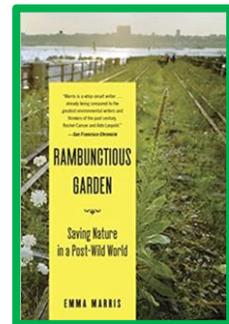
**Ted.** I'll be sending out a draft of the minutes after the meeting. Please send any updates.

**8. Good of the Order**

**Al.** There was a book published recently called the *Rambunctious Garden*. The author believes that the future of parks maintenance is welcoming the weeds and letting them take over. This viewpoint, if it spreads, could have deleterious effects on preserving the forest. I frequently go around Seward Park and pull weeds, including holly.



**Paul.** Maybe we should inform the **Seattle Green Partnership** about it.



Adjourned at 11:04am 12/10/22.

Minutes prepared by Ted Weinberg, Secretary, Friends of Seward Park