

Friends of Seward Park
Meeting minutes for Saturday June 14, 2025
Submitted by E. Van Volkenburgh

Attending: Nate Butcher, Lizabeth Collier, Chris Hollinger, Joey Manson, Paul Shannon, Paul Talbert, Liz Van Volkenburgh

Paul Talbert called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

Announcements. Paul Talbert reminded us there will be FoSP Board elections of officers in October. Our next meeting will be in September.

Audubon Update. Joey reported that the Audubon's last field trip of the spring season was held Thursday. The first cohort of Elevation (teen program) held its final class as a trip to the state capitol where they were fortunate to watch the Governor signing bills with legislators present. This was followed by a trip to the Billy Frank Wildlife Area where they met Billy Frank III. An excellent celebration for the first-year cohort.

Joey also announced that there will be two new hires by Audubon to help in the store, one starting in July, the other later working with public programming.

Monthly Reports

Treasurer's Report (Lizabeth): FoSP has \$68,829.91 in its budget.

Secretary's Report (Liz): Last month's minutes are available on the FoSP website.

Fern survey meeting in Dead Horse Canyon: Paul Shannon convened a meeting to introduce the summer interns Ben Schlipp and Kaiis Jarrah who will be travelling around the Puget Sound lowlands this summer sampling sword-fern patches for health/die-off. Also present were Danielle Devier (Green Seattle Partnership), Joey Hulburt (WSU Pathology Lab), Paul Talbert, Liz Van Volkenburgh.

Paul Shannon described the purpose of the project.

MSP approval of \$2000 to support travel costs for the survey.

Sequencing Update. Paul Talbert reported contact with Dr. Zamir Punja, a plant pathologist at Simon Fraser University who has offered to carry out sequencing on tissues from Seward Park sword ferns. Dr. Punja recommended sampling roots (not fronds). The Punja lab will do the work pro bono.

MSP to pay for mailing costs should we decide to mail fern material to Dr. Punja.

Other options were discussed and remain on the table:

1. Paul Talbert could extract DNA and run PCR using lab , pending approval, at the Fred Hutch or the UW.
2. Veronica diStilio (UW Biology) has offered to help, including time of a recent graduate from her lab. This option would require funds from FoSP to pay for supplies and the technician's time.
3. OSU Pathology Lab. Paul Talbert will investigate their capabilities and cost.
4. WSU Pathology Lab. Paul Shannon gave reasons for not turning to this group.

Forest Report. Paul Shannon shared a poster made to advertise an upcoming presentation on the burn history of Seward Park.

SPF and REPOSADO. Paul Talbert asked if the group would participate in a July 9 event put on by the Seattle Parks Foundation. Chris Hollinger volunteered.

Insurance. Further discussion of whether to purchase insurance for the Board led to Paul Talbert offering to call for more advice from Ian Wong and Seattle Parks Foundation. The company recommended by SPF is Nonprofits Insurance Alliance. They offer Commercial General Liability insurance for \$840/year, and Directors and Operators Liability Insurance for \$656/yr.

Other business.

Paul Talbert again mentioned that trail markers need attention and suggested a volunteer effort be organized to get this done. Chris Hollinger and Liz Van Volkenburgh offered to clean and touch up (paint) the markers, if Paul Talbert would inquire with the company who made them about recommended paint for the red dots.

The next FoSP meeting will be scheduled for September.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.