

Friends of Seward Park
Meeting minutes for Saturday May 10, 2025
Submitted by E. Van Volkenburgh

Attending: Lizabeth Coller, Jenny Dooley, Chris Hollinger, Joey Manson, Paul Shannon, Paul Talbert, Liz Van Volkenburgh

Paul Talbert called the meeting to order at 9:42 am.

Announcements. Paul Talbert reminded us there will be elections of FoSP officers in the Fall.

This year FoSP did not participate in the Seattle Foundation's Give Big event. The question was raised "Should we?" become more active in local fund-raising efforts. Another example is November's Giving Tuesday.

Paul Shannon and Paul Talbert attended a SPF Earth Day Town Hall. There were many presenters of posters, including FoSP. Connection was made with a representative from Gateway Park North (Georgetown, on the Duwamish River).

Audubon Update. Joey drew our attention to Migratory Bird Day (spring) and announced a talk by Rebecca Heisman, author of Flight Paths, to be given today (May 10) at the Audubon center.

Washington State Audubon will hire a new director and three other staffers in the near future.

Monthly Reports

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

Secretary's Report (Paul T): Recordings (Zoom) for February, March and April meetings should be available (contact Paul S).

Sequencing Update. Paul Talbert has obtained permission to carry out PCR amplification of fern DNA (using samples Dylan has) at Fred Hutch. Paul has been in touch with Dylan about sharing materials. With some frustration, Paul Shannon challenged the likelihood of this working out, for Paul Talbert and the project. This led to a broader discussion of how to move forward with this effort.

Forest Report. Paul Shannon reported that a scientist from Oregon State University visited the Park to observe and sample hemlock and fern tissues and consult about both the fern die-off and the failing hemlocks.

Paul Shannon has secured the engagement of two undergraduate students from the UW's Program on the Environment. They will work over the summer to sample the Puget Sound basin for evidence of fern die-off. A motion was made, seconded and passed (MSP) asking Paul Shannon to provide a proposal containing the specifics of the number and names of

people to be reimbursed, estimated miles to be travelled, time frame of work, an estimated budget with maximum expenditure and bring this proposal back to the FoSP Board for approval.

Jenny Dooley recently completed training as Forest Steward (Green Seattle Partnership, GSP) and is assigned to Seward Park. This is a volunteer position. She and Paul Shannon reported on work at a NW site, half-acre with 600+ dead ferns. This area is being mulched and replanted. Seattle Parks pays for the mulch and ferns. There will be a work party next Saturday (May 17); this event is posted on the GSP website.

Other business.

The next FoSP meeting will be scheduled for June 14.

Paul Talbert suggested that trail markers need attention and suggested a volunteer effort be organized to get this done.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.