

Friends of Seward Park

Minutes for Board Meeting 11 October 2025

Submitted by E. Van Volkenburgh

Attending: Lizabeth Coller, Jenny Dooley, Paul Shannon, Al Smith, Paul Talbert, Liz Van Volkenburgh, Ted Weinberg

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

Announcements. Paul Talbert has filed a renewal of the Washington State license for a non-profit organization. He also said we need to renew our business license for \$75. A motion was made, seconded and passed (MSP) to do this.

Elections and Dues. A motion was made to re-elect current officers to their current posts. MSP: President, Paul Talbert; Vice-President, Paul Shannon; Treasurer, Lizabeth Coller; Secretary, Liz Van Volkenburgh. Chris Hollinger and Ted Weinberg, bring total Board membership to 6 members.

FoSP membership dues are \$20/year or 2 hours of volunteer service.

Audubon Update. Joey Manson was occupied setting up events and unable to attend our meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Lizabeth reported that we have \$67K in the FoSP bank account.

Secretary's Report. Liz noted that September 2025 minutes had been posted on the FoSP website and are available for comment. A few corrections were offered and a revised draft will be submitted for reposting. (<https://sewardpark.org/minutes-from-monthly-fosp-meetings/>)

Plant Pathogen Testing. Paul S reported that, with permission from Danielle Devier (SPR), samples will be collected and shipped for analysis by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Pathology group. MSP to approve reimbursing Paul S for shipping costs. Cheryl Blomquist of the CA pathology group mentioned in a Zoom call earlier in the month that they have funding to cover the work they propose to do.

Al contributed that his monitoring of thrips' presence and damage on salal continues, and in his opinion is worsening. He also said leaf hoppers seem to be on the decline.

Trillium Swale: Jenny reported that work parties have finished sheet-mulching in the fern die-off area at the Trillium Swale. Next steps will include soil testing, then planting in January/February. In answer to Paul T's question, Jenny suggested they plant evergreen huckleberry, osoberry, salmon berry, ferns (generally, plants that have grown there historically). She and Paul S will establish a way to keep records of this restoration effort.

Paul S requested approval to spend approximately \$500 to replace a 20-gallon bucket with wheels. The wheeled undercarriage disappeared when we neglected to lock it up behind the Jobox. We still have the bucket, so he will see if the carriage can be purchased separately.

Endophyte Sequencing Update. Paul T continues to optimize the PCR protocol for extracted sword fern DNA.

Other business.

Paul T asked whether FoSP wishes to renew its “Friends of” agreement with SPR. There was a general sense that this would be a good idea if not too difficult to accomplish. Paul T said he would look into it.

Paul S mentioned that SPR’s 2020 agreement on where bicycles can be ridden in parks has been changed, apparently allowing bikes (both un-motorized and e-bikes) on any path paved or unpaved wider than 60 inches. He suggested reaching out to SPR and asking them to reassign Seward Park to the group of parks in which bikes are only allowed on paved roads.

Paul S was contacted by a newly designated contact person from Seattle Parks Foundation asking for a tour of the Park. He invited them to attend our meeting but did not hear back from them. We were reminded of the structure of the Foundation and its purpose vis a vis our Park. There was a general sense that maintaining contact is a good idea.

Paul S brought up the photo post on the Windfall Trail. The subscription for logging its photos needs renewal (no MSP). Paul suggested that the area in view of the camera would be a good candidate for next replanting. Jenny and Paul S will discuss scheduling and logistics further.

Liz brought up the 2006 Vegetation Management Plan for Seward Park (housed at SPR), aspiration for a 500-Year plan for Seward Park (first proposed by Paul S) and asked how can FoSP learn best approaches for current planting and management of the Park in view of a long term goal. She will investigate and bring ideas for possible speakers/advisors to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

The next FoSP meeting is scheduled for November 8 (second Saturday of each month).