

Friends of Seward Park

Minutes for Board Meeting 13 June 2026

Submitted by E. Van Volkenburgh

Attending: Lizabeth Coller, Chris Hollinger, Joey Manson, Paul Shannon, Al Smith, Paul Talbert, Liz Van Volkenburgh

Paul Talbert called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

Announcements. Paul T announced several recent donations; Chris will write thank you notes to the donors.

Monthly reports.

Treasurer's Report -- Lizabeth reported that we have \$91,853 in the FoSP bank account. FoSP is paying three students for summer research on FIA plots. Paul S has also spent some money for watering equipment (pre-approved).

Secretary's Report -- Liz asked for input on May's minutes; hearing none, the minutes were approved for posting.

Audubon Update. Joey Manson reported that Audubon Summer Camps will begin next Sunday extending for seven weeks with maximum enrollment of 11 campers each. Joey also brought to our attention that the building turns 100 years old next year. The upstairs meeting room and downstairs are marked Landmark Historic. Joey and Paul may try to locate family members who lived in this building. Audubon is waiting to hear whether Parks will continue the agreement to house them in this building for another 20 years starting 2028.

The Rainier Cultural Center will host a 3 part series (two in July, one in August) on tree canopy, redlining, and related actions. The series is sponsored by DNR. Ed Dominguez is featured.

Proposals/Funding/Joey/CA. We discussed the proposal from Joey Hulbert (WSU) for summer research. Paul T will communicate interest in supporting his proposal and suggest that Joey H reach out to the California Plant Pathogen group, answer some questions from the Board, meet with us via Zoom, and revise his plan as needed. Paul T will work with Joey to schedule a Zoom call before July 1.

Forest Stewards Report. Three undergrads working with Tim Billo are surveying plots across the Park. They found one Doug Fir 215 feet tall.

Seattle Parks and the GSP endorse the "Clandestine Clearing" restoration project proposed by forest stewards Jenny Dooley and Paul Shannon. During the restoration, which is predicted to span five years, a temporary trail into the clearing will be laid out following an old trail closed 10 years ago by tree fall. This trail will be temporarily blocked off except when in use by GSP work parties. At project conclusion it will be permanently closed and obscured.

Andrews Bay “Natural Area. We discussed moving forward with a bird monitoring project after contacting Audubon (our local office and perhaps also the national office).

Oaks/Clark’s Prairie. Paul T met with Seattle Parks’ Lisa Ciecko, along with Tim Billo and Maggie Chen. They discussed removing one small Doug Fir, planting camas, engaging Warren King George, planting and restoring the Garry Oaks. Maggie may work on finding a method to control St. John’s Wort.

ByLaws. Paul S ID’d two related issues that have been lingering: Insurance and ByLaws. He proposed we find an attorney to help us to understand the insurance policy and update the ByLaws. Paul T suggests that an insurance broker rather than a lawyer is more appropriate. Two types of policy are advised: Directors and Operators (we have never carried, according to Paul T) and Commercial General Liability. Liz volunteered to find someone to interpret the long policy offered so that we can determine whether it covers what we need to be covered, and whether what it does cover is what we need. A review of Bylaws will be hosted at Liz’s house on Monday June 15 at 7.

Other business. Paul Shannon mentioned that FoSP/GSP work party mailing list has more than 100 entries, most of whom have been to multiple work parties.

Al found vanilla leaf (*Achlys triphylla*) living amongst some poison oaks. He drew attention to the dangerous traffic at the intersection at Orcas by the Lake. He wondered if Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson has been asked to look at it.

Chris added a horror story of reckless car passing situation on the hill coming down from the upper lot, with drivers going too fast endangering her car coming the other direction.

We discussed our pathways of communication with Parks. Our concerns include homeless encampments (one long standing) and overnight vans. Also of concern is vandalism against trees: stripping and cutting into tree bark, apparent whacking trees with sticks.

Paul S reported that the email announcement of the FoSP Board meeting which included the first issue of a FoSP Newsletter was opened by 180 people. We discussed possible content for future Newsletters.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.

The next FoSP meeting is scheduled for September 12 (second Saturday of each month).