

Friends of Seward Park

Minutes for Board Meeting 14 February 2026

Submitted by E. Van Volkenburgh (from Zoom recording)

Attending: Lizabeth Collier, Chris Hollinger, Seher Khan, Paul Shannon, Al Smith, Paul Talbert

Paul Talbert called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

Introductions and Announcements. Paul T and Chris H introduced Seher Khan, Volunteer Coordinator for Pacific Northwest Trails.

Paul T mentioned an inquiry from Karen O'Brien asking if FoSP would co-sponsor a talk by John Halliday probably in April.

Paul T brought up the presence of blackcap raspberry (*Rubus leucodermis*), trailing blackberry, Himalayan blackberry (*R. amreniacus*), and salmon berry at the north end of the Windfall trail.

Recent donations were mentioned, including a monthly donation from Benevity.

Audubon Update. Joey was not available to report.

Monthly Reports

Treasurer's Report: Our account has \$78,610.

Secretary's Report. With minor corrections, the minutes for January's meeting were approved.

Rangers. Paul S reported positively about seeing the SPR Rangers in the Park. General discussion included observations that they stay in their truck, don't seem to walk around the Park.

Plant pathogen and soil testing update. Paul S reported he received an email from the California Plant Pathogen group, asking for a Zoom call. There was generally expressed gratitude for their continued involvement in the sword fern project.

PNW Trails and SP off-trail play areas: Seher Khan re-introduced herself as the volunteer coordinator for the Pacific Northwest Trail Association which manages the Pacific Northwest National Trail running from Glacier National Park to the Peninsula. She had reached out to Tim Billo to ask him to report to her group about the SP sword fern die-off, so that hikers associated with PNW Trails could keep an eye out for ailing ferns around the state. She will walk with Paul Shannon and others after the meeting to see firsthand what our ferns look like and better understand what to look for when training hikers to report sightings.

AI raised the issue of mountain bikes on our trails, potentially regulating the directions they travel (as on Cheasty Blvd trails). He also noted thrips observed on salal, pointing out that they seem to have survived the winter.

GSP Oak Management Walk-through.

By-Law amendments.

500 Year AI Plan.

[discussion of these items was not recorded clearly by Zoom]

Other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

The next FoSP meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2026 (second Saturday of the month) at 9:30 am.