WCFC Meeting
May 7, 2008
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
270 9th Street N.E.
Ice Age Floods Conference Room, First Floor
East Wenatchee, Washington

Members present: Joe Scorcio, Sarah Griffith, Terry Flatley, Sandy Salisbury, Jim Flott, Jeff Beckwith, Marilyn Hyde, Bill Sanborn, Linda Vane, Steve Dubiel, Marianne Ophardt, and Rich Baker

Members absent: Barbara Hollenbeck, Neil Burkhardt, Kathy Wolf, and Kelly Punteney,

Guests: Dave Faulkenberry, Janice Pacific, and Vicki Lee

Action Items:
• Sarah will send out current Council Roster (carried over from February Meeting)
• Sandy will start an article and pass it out to the Committee to do a group edit before it is submitted to go into newsletters (carried over from February Meeting)
• Sarah will send out pictures to the Council from Arbor Day events.
• Sarah will talk to Peter Dervin who is interested in rejoining the Council as a WALP Representative.
• Council sends edits and comments on the Strategic Plan to Sarah no later than June 17.
• Council sends legislative comments to Jeff no later than June 16.
• Joe will bring re-written Strategic Plan to June Meeting
• Sandy conference call
• Joe will make phone calls and get information for Jim for the APA October Conference.
• Joe and Sarah get copy of letter and send before June meeting

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions - Chair
Introductions were made.

Agenda, February 2008 Meeting Minutes, and Review Action Items – Chair/Secretary
Joe went over the Agenda, reviewed the Action Items; a couple were carried over. Minutes were reviewed; a motion was made to accept the minutes by Jeff, and seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

DNR Program Update, Ag Forestry Update, Arbor Day Recap – Sarah
There are a couple of events coming up in May and October that Stacey and DNR members will be attending. The Commissioner attended Arbor Day in Vancouver, Everett, and Pasco. Joe attended a luncheon on April 10th. The 25th Ellensburg Arbor Day celebration, Joe and Sarah attended. Sarah has pictures and will send them out to Council. Next year is Longview’s 25th year as a Tree City. Also thanks go out to Jeff, Jim, Terry and others.

Sarah talked about her AgForestry Class, their Washington D.C. trip, and how impressed she was to the access they were given. They had coffee with Senator Maria Cantwell, breakfast with Senator Patty
Murray, and spoke with one of Congressman Dave Reichert’s staffer’s. They had a tour of the Pentagon, saw the 911 Memorial there, and looked through the Book of Victims.

Sarah stated that the DNR Program is moving forward. They need to set up timelines for tree inventory, talk about their budget plans now, with the new state money, how they are going to spend it. Need to put together position description for a new permanent inventory person, and projects position person. CTED will be hiring a new person that will work 36 hours a week, and have asked for DNR’s guidance.

Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2844
Joe passed out a copy of the Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2844. He talked about the Task Force that will need to be put together; then referred to page 14, section 4. (Please see handout): The task force would be around for a few years, and be unfunded. He asked about the future of the Council. DNR will pay for Council. It was asked who could serve as a Council Representative. Who would be on the Technical Advisory Committee? Who can serve on the Evergreen Community Task Force? This is an opportunity for us to lead, we need to be pushy. Marilyn and Linda volunteered. In the next six months DNR will start tree inventorying.

Committee Updates (and meetings) – Committee Chairs
The Committees met for thirty minutes, and then the meeting reconvened.

Executive Committee
Sarah read a letter from Kathy. Kathy sent some noisemakers for the Matt Warner celebration.

Legislative Committee
Looked at the Strategic Plan and what kind of impact the new legislation will have. Federal Legislation has given California money for utilities to plant trees for conservation. Sarah reported Federal dollars for supporting this program are diminishing. What should we do now? Should we have more grant programs? Should we apply for more grants to add to state dollars? The FY09 budget dollars are down. Urban had to compete for 07 and 08 dollars. We have four grants open, one ended, two closed. We still have $400,000 we haven’t spent yet, and the Feds say we must spend it down. Maybe the Council can come up with some ideas. Joe advised that the Council can not council DNR on how to spend the money. Jeff replied they could offer advice.

Outreach and Awards
We looked at the Five Year Plan. We will talk about Education and Outreach later; also on how to broaden our goals to include the Evergreen Community Act. Bill explained how the award ceremony would go.

Celebration of Matt Warner’s Life – The Council walked over to the Bridge of Friendship for the ceremony, where a Japanese maple was planted in Matt’s honor. Some of Matt’s family members and the Mayor attended.

Lunch – Council Roundtable – All
Linda – She attended Washington DNR’s Firewise Communities training in Chelan. Like DNR, King County considers community fire planning a part of its Urban and Community Forestry Program. Mark Kahley made a very well-received presentation at the training.

Jeff – Thanked everyone that worked on the legislation.

Terry – Talked about Renton Arbor Day, which was held on April 26; and the new park that was developed two years ago. Renton is also in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for Urban Forestry Program Planning, with a Mission Statement and Goals.

Marilyn – the Basin Bloomers next week in the Blue Mountain District along with Horse Heaven Hill Kiwanis Rotary Club, Audubon and one private will plant one tree. Dr. Coler donated and planted two blue spruce.
Sandy – Sandy talked about a project DOT just finished, where they planted more than 200 trees; to offset the carbon emissions. She explained about the carbon sequestration restoration. Sandy is also doing the design for a project in Kennewick.

Steve – April was a great earth month, we had over 2,006 volunteers. May and the first part of June will be very busy. Steve talked about Greening up Seattle, Redmond, Kirkland, Tacoma, Shoreline; and stated similar efforts were being made on Mercer Island and Federal Way. In Boeing’s Annual Report, there was a two page spread about Earthcorp. Steve passed around an article on Seattle’s Valuable Trees are Missing.

Rich – This year’s Arbor Day was April 26th, at the Arboretum. On the 12th at the Community College, for the second year in a row, we spent a day of service, pruning trees.

Bill – This year they distributed 8,000 tree seedlings to five districts, Chelan, Entiat, Orando, Wenatchee, and Cashmere. They had 80 to 100 volunteers.

Jim – Jim represented the Council at the Arbor Day celebrations at Fairchild AFB, and the new Tree City Millwood. Over 1,000 people attended Arbor Day celebration in Spokane; the Mayor accepted the award. Five hundred compost bins were given away. Jim attended the PNWISA Board retreat in March.

Marianne – She will be in Pasco on Arbor Day for their first Arbor Day celebration. Marianne talked about rubber sidewalks mitigating tree root problems. Richland and Kennewick had their Arbor Days last week. In June the WSU Extension Urban Forestry Team will have two conference calls; they will talk about their mission, goals, educating the public with materials and programs; and will develop a tree list.

Sarah: Talked about the Matt Warner Urban Forestry Stewardship Award. It was discussed to include language underneath the award about Matt. Joe clarified a motion to modify the language, Marilyn seconded the motion. It was agreed that the Award Committee (Linda) would explore more, modify and get back to the Council.

Joe: The American Planning Association Conference is coming up October 13, 14, and 15. It would be a good opportunity for the Council to have a booth and do some promotion. There would be a very captive audience; as 700 to 800 planners attend from around the state. A motion was made to have Jim attend the booth, which was seconded by Jeff. Motion carried. Joe will make some phone calls and get the information and send it to Jim. Jeff also volunteered and Bill agreed to be alternate. UPDATE: Non-Profit Rate for Booth is $675, Sponsor and Booth is $900. Conference is two and a half days.

Legislative Discussion…what comes next? - Sarah Griffith
In June we will get together with Audubon and CTED to talk about what is next. What is our role? We need to prepare for this meeting. DNR will help CTED with a Model Ordinance Plan. Urban Forestry will be staffing up, we will hire two Group Technical Support persons, short term. Need language on utilizing the DNR Tech’s, needs going through before June Meeting. Council has a seat.

Strategic Plan Discussion – Joe Scorcio
A large discussion ensued, there were many changes suggested; so it was decided that Council Members re-read the draft, and e-mail their comments in no later than the June Meeting. Joe would like to come to the June meeting with a re-written, updated plan to adopt for the August Meeting in Pasco.

Agenda Items for June
• Evergreen Communities Act Overview
• Discuss DNR’s Role
• Discuss Audubon’s Role
• Discuss CTED’s Role
• Give Updated Information on the APA Conference

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. Next meeting will be a short meeting, June 17, in Olympia, Washington, at the Natural Resource Building, Room 172, on the first floor. August meeting will be on August 13, in Pasco.