

King County Conservation Futures Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

4:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Teleconference

1. Welcome – Terry Lavender

Terry opened the meeting. Ingrid reminded the Committee to use registration link on the CFT page if they want to sign up to attend workshops.

2. Chair Election & Remarks – Terry, Mark Johnsen

In November 2020, Mark was nominated for a 2-year term as chair, and Terry to a 1-year term as vice-chair. The nominations were approved at this meeting by a voice vote. Mark shared remarks reflecting on the history of conserving land in King County, and how intentional that work was and is, and how that important work continues today.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 18, 2020 Special Meeting

The minutes of the November 18, 2020 special meeting were approved as shared by email.

4. Update on 2020 Closings – Ingrid Lundin

Ingrid reviewed the closings from 2020.

5. Green Stormwater Infrastructure – Matt McNair, Denise Di Santo

Discussed the importance of managing stormwater to improve water quality & habitat, reducing the pollution/toxin burden that is inadequately managed in our built infrastructure. Building on low-impact development which retains natural features and works to enhance hydrological function, green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) includes actions to de-pave, revegetate, construct wetlands, bioswales, etc. Basic techniques include dispersion (open space lands especially important), infiltration, phytoremediation. Can complement and yield higher return on restoration. GSI is contrasted to gray infrastructure such as pipes, ponds, vaults, concrete, usually underground and out of sight. GSI can add open spaces and community-focused benefits in addition to stormwater management. Members of the Committee noted that there may need to be more specific examples provided to determine whether GSI uses are appropriate on CFT sites.

6. Clean Water Healthy Habitat: Equity Focus of Work – Josh Latterell

CWHH planning effort has sought to develop measurable 30-year goals that represent environmental success and benefit all people, especially marginalized communities; and develop strategies that guide our work to get faster, better results, incorporate equity, and yield higher returns on investment. With momentous events of 2020, they truly realized they need to focus not just on being equitable but anti-racist. They worked to put people at the heart of the plan. Wrestling with how to be very thoughtful about how to approach the planning without upholding systemic racism; how to think about nature and people in new ways; how to integrate community voices and views.

7. New Parks Levy Grant Programs – Kevin Brown

Discussed new grants included in the 2020-2025 Parks Levy. Targeted Equity up to \$10M with a focus on access, programs, capacity building, land acquisition. Aquatic Centers up to \$44M to build or improve public aquatic centers. Open space river corridors up to \$22M with a key focus on river corridors, multi-benefit restoration and passive recreation projects. Capital Projects Open Space up to \$25M for acquisition and development projects in urban areas. Anticipating grant season in early fall 2021.

8. Charter Open Space Amendment update – Sarah Brandt

Overview of the Charter Open Space Amendment adopted in 2009 that allows for adoption of a High Conservation Value inventory, which restricts any changes to the intended use of the property is restricted in the future. Changes to inventory require a supermajority vote of council. Update to inventory in 2015, and Parks is working on a 2021 update. Will be bundled with Open Space Plan work later in 2021.

9. Appraisals & Valuing Properties – Kurt Engstrom, Ingrid Lundin

Ingrid noted the Committee sees grant applications with estimated costs, and often has questions about valuations. Discussed that the project must appraise the project with a third-party qualified appraiser and have the appraisal reviewed. Kurt discussed appraisals of easements, and other considerations taken into account during the process of valuing properties.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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Attendance

Steve Abel	Conservation Futures Advisory Committee
Ken Brunner	“ “
Tiffany Chan	“ “
Niesha Fort	“ “
Catherine Gockel	“ “
Molly Graham	“ “
Leah Grant	“ “
Mark R. Johnsen	“ “
Terry Lavender	“ “
Amanda León	“ “
Keith Livingston	“ “
Courtney Naumann	“ “
Chuck Paulsen	“ “
Andrew Schmid	“ “
Jen Syrowitz	“ “

Staff:

Ingrid Lundin, King County DNRP

Linda Holecek, “

Matt McNair, “

Jessica Engel, “

Denise Di Santo, “

Josh Latterell, “

Kevin Brown, “

Sarah Brandt, “

Kurt Engstrom, “

Guest:

Eric Jensen