

Great Old Broads
Polly Dyer Seattle Chapter
Meeting: 7:00 PM, November 10, 2022
Location: Zoom

Penelope called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Members present were: Penelope Peterson, Wendy Roedell, Barb Phalen, Sally Richardson, Shelley Spalding, Susan Kostik, Miguel Raimilla, Esther MacIlroy, Janna Treisman, Susan Bocek, Nora Langan, Janka Hobbs, Genia Moncada, Preston Thompson, Kate Bradley, Natalie Taylor, Pati An, and Barbara Muirhead

PRESENTATION BY MIGUEL RAIMILLA FROM EARTHCORPS FOLLOWED BY Q&A

Miguel Raimilla, Partnerships Director for EarthCorps: EarthCorps builds a global community of young leaders trained in ecological restoration. See their website at <https://www.earthcorps.org>. In 1993, Miguel came to Seattle from Chile to help launch EarthCorps. He later joined the founder, Dwight Wilson, in taking the model created in Seattle to multiple countries worldwide.

After the death of George Floyd, the young people in the organization wanted Earth Corps to pay more attention to serving people of color with particular focus on the impacts of climate change. Miguel was charged with the task to make EarthCorps more diverse and to focus on people of color and environmental justice in the Pacific Northwest. Currently, through local environmental restoration and youth leadership, EarthCorps is codesigning projects with local communities to pursue environmental justice.

The young people in the program are from all over the United States. EarthCorps used to have many participants from other countries but had to cancel the international component of the program because of COVID. EarthCorps is gradually restarting it with six international individuals this year.

A new vision statement was developed through ongoing conversations with many communities: "EarthCorps envisions an equitable world where all people and nature thrive." Mission: "EarthCorps cultivates leaders and community partnerships to advance environmental justice." EarthCorps believes that impactful environmental restoration, environmental leaders, and an anti-racist culture can combine with experiential learning to achieve their mission.

Funding comes from grants, fee for service, sponsorships, and donations. The organization is involved with many collaborative partners, including King County, Port of Seattle, tribes, private sector, foundations, and government agencies. Many projects are

multi-year projects and may take a generation to yield the cultural differences we'd like to see. This is challenging for funders.

Many of the young people who come to work with EarthCorps come from AmeriCorps. They work several years this way and may end up as staff.

Miguel then showed a video explaining how the work is done. A volunteer calendar is on the EarthCorps web page. Next year EarthCorps is planning at least 45 volunteer events. At least 25 of them are in collaboration with communities of color. They are eager to have us volunteer with them at one of their events.

Miguel said they would love to have us explore the idea of an 11-month commitment of providing home stays for the young people coming to work with them, especially young people from different parts of the US. It is difficult to find places for people to stay that are affordable, especially in Seattle, and homestays work well.

One ongoing project started in 2004, when EarthCorps began working with the Duwamish Tribe to recover native species along the river. They are trying to negotiate with the cities who own the properties along the river to be able to restore the habitat. Codiga Park at the end of Boeing Field, in Tukwila, is one successful result of their work. The Tribe is now able to use this area in their traditional ways.

BUSINESS MEETING

1. Advocacy_(Genia)

- a. Current work on the issue of "Protecting mature and old-growth forests includes a Rally "for the Trees" in Portland that will be staged across from the US Regional Office on November 17th at 11:30 am. Contact Genia for more information if you are interested in going. Barbara Phalen and Kay Sanderson may attend.

The Forest BRAT (Broads Regional Action Team) is drafting a letter to urge legislators to save mature trees. The order from Biden to save trees doesn't define "mature trees" and does not mention logging.

- b. **The Green River Valley Alliance** seeks to protect the Green River Valley, an area along the north border of Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, from ongoing attempts to develop a destructive open-pit mine. **The best way to accomplish that is to secure a federal mineral withdrawal through Congress.** In order to do so, we will be sending postcards to Cantwell and Murray and writing them at a future meeting.

You can sign a petition regarding this issue by following the link [here](#). We'll talk more about this at our next meeting. Genia will work on a way for people to get together to write postcards on this issue.

c. **Alpine Lakes Collaborative** (Barb Muirhead)

The Alpine Lakes Collaborative is a group that is concerned about the trails in that Alpine wilderness that are being overused. The Collaborative is starting to look at ideas of what they might do to mitigate the crowding on the trails, the overflowing parking, the overused bathrooms, etc. The group plans some seminars in November and December. Barb will follow the issue but cannot attend, so Janna will try to go to the first meetings in November and December and will report back at our next meeting.

- d. Nora asked us to submit comments on a November 15th proposal for Seattle to pass an amendment to the budget to **fund a position to hire an Urban City Forester**. The Urban City Forester would redo the current haphazard rules about removing trees in Seattle. With the current situation, developers can cut down large trees and replace them with small ones. This position would also help with environmental justice for low-income neighborhoods that have less greenery and therefore get more overheated.

A public hearing is coming up about this position. We can email, sign up two hours before the meeting on November 15 at 5 PM to testify over the phone, or attend in person. Genia will work on talking points which she will email. (<https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>)

Several Broads offered their thoughts. Kate pointed out the need to also take care of the trees, especially during droughts. The person should be an arborist who knows about trees. Janna noted that In unincorporated King County, developers can cut down 100-year-old cedars to build houses and replace them with tiny sapling maples. Nora, Genia, and Kate might want to explore this issue in different cities for our future discussion. Janna will look into the issue with the Native Plant Society..

2. Fun (Barb M)

- a. Barb is planning an outing for us to see the Skagit River eagles, sometime after January 17. She is checking out a guide who may give us a guided trip with a talk.

- b. Barb has reserved five cabins and three campsites for a campout for our Broadband next July 17 and 18, 2023, at Camano Island State Park.
- c. Let's design our own T-shirts for our Broadband! If you're interested let Penelope know if you have an idea for a T-shirt design

3. **Education (Penelope)**

- a. Penelope is exploring the possible streaming of the film, *Elemental*, followed by Q & A with the film's director. The film is about wildfire and is focused on Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. The film runs 90 minutes, and we will probably stream it in January or February. We'll hear more from Penelope about this.
- b. Please visit our Broadband's new Facebook page if you are on Facebook!

4. **Upcoming Events**

- a. **Rally "for the Trees" in Portland on November 17th at 11:30 am.**
Please let Genia know if you are interested in attending.
- b. **Thursday, December 1st at 7 pm—Zoom Book Club Discussion** on *Gathering Moss* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Contact Penelope if you want to be added to the Book Club email list.
- c. **Save the Date—July 17 and 18th, 2023, for a camp-out of our Broadband in Camano Island State Park** on Camano Island. Barb Muirhead has reserved five cabins and three campsites for us.

Meeting ended at 8:52 PM

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Roedell