



OPEN SPACE CONSERVANCY TRUST BOARD MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Call to Order:

Chair Bender called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM.

Roll Call:

Chair Marie Bender, Vice Chair Thomas Hildebrandt, Secretary Craig Olson, Trustee Carol Lynn Berseth, and Trustee Geraldine Poor. Council Liaison David Wisenteiner was absent.

Staff present were Ryan Daly, Interim Parks and Recreation Director, Alaine Sommargren, Interim Parks Operations Manager, and Kim Frappier, Natural Resources Specialist.

Minutes:

Trustee Poor motioned and Trustee Berseth seconded to approve the September minutes.

Motion passed: 5-0.

Public Appearances:

Jenny Harrington Lill and Michael Lill
4821 88th PI SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
Presented request to install bench in honor of their son, Ewan Lill, in Pioneer Park NW.

Amy Richter
4448 Ferncroft Road, Mercer Island 98040
Spoke in support of the memorial bench for Ewan Lill.

Ze'ev Young
Spoke about the need for management of roots intruding into the trails of Pioneer SE. Mr. Young also spoke of his positive experience working with Parks and Recreation staff to address these concerns.

Regular Business:

(I) Bench Request

Trustees discussed whether to install the memorial bench for Ewan Lill at the southwest corner of Pioneer NW. The suggested location is not one of the Parks Department's pre-approved bench sites. Staff provided information regarding the responsibilities for installation, materials, and upkeep of the bench.

Trustee Poor moved to approve the bench installation location as requested by Jenny and Michael Lill. Trustee Berseth seconded.

Motion passed: 5-0

(II) Roots in Accessible Trails

Interim Parks Operations Manager Sommargren presented background information on accessible trail

requirements, noting that this issue is not addressed in the Pioneer Park Master Plan. She reported that Ze'ev Young, community member, met with Andrew Prince, the Parks Trails and Urban Forestry Specialist, to assess the roots growing up into the trail and potential tree impacts. She also reviewed options available to address in-trail root intrusions which include spray paint roots (so they are more visible), cut or grind roots, add gravel to regrade trail, or re-route trail.

Trustees discussed the pros and cons of different solutions. Interim Park Operations Manager Sommargren explained that there were only two root intrusions connected to live trees. The plan of action will be as follows: (1) Remove (or grind down) roots associated with dead trees, (2) Add additional gravel and rocks to create a ramp over the live-root intrusions to protect the health of the trees. Interim Park Operations Manager Sommargren will work with Trails Specialist Prince to implement these first steps and report back to the Trust Board.

(III) 2020 Work Plan Brainstorm

Interim Parks Operations Manager Sommargren explained the process of developing the 2020 Work Plan. She inquired about adding an Eagle Scout recognition for Elliott Hendrickson to the January meeting. Secretary Olson will create a recognition and thank you letter to Elliott from the Trust. Work plan items added include:

January	Eagle Scout recognition
March	Parking encroachment along 84 th Avenue SE; sword fern decline
July	PROS Plan; plant selection considerations; social trail decommission update
September	Permanent restroom facility

(IV) Quadrant Reports

NW Quadrant: Trustee Berseth

Trustees inquired about herbicide treatments and tree removals. Staff reported on the invasive tree treatments and tree assessment projects.

NE Quadrant: Trustee Poor and Trustee Bender

Trustees reported seeing a lot of mud on trails.

SE Quadrant: Secretary Hildebrandt and Trustee Olson

Trustee Poor reported that she witnessed a dog chasing a deer in the SE Quadrant. Overall quadrant looks good.

(V) Other business

Secretary Hildebrandt reported that there has not been progress for the renovation of the Hatheway bench.

(VI) Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020.

Adjournment: 7:28 PM

Marie Bender, Chair

Attest:

Kim Frappier, Scribe

From: Amy Babson Richter
To: Diane Mortenson
Subject: Letter in support of bench for Ewan Lill in Pioneer Park
Date: Saturday, November 16, 2019 1:53:14 AM

Dear Open Space Conservancy Trust Members, (c/o Diane Mortenson)

Thank you for your service to our open spaces and to our community. In preparation for your November 21st Open Space Conservancy Trust Board meeting, I am writing to request your support for having a bench placed in honor of Ewan Lill in Pioneer Park in the NW Quadrant, near the corner of 84th Ave SE and SE 68th St.

Ewan was deeply loved by many of us in the Mercer Island community. He was kind, loving and courageous with the brightest spirit you could ever imagine. Ewan and his family spent many hours in Pioneer Park walking together, spending time with friends and connecting with nature. As people who visit Pioneer Park frequently to do the same types of things that Ewan did when he visited there, we can think of no better place to honor his memory than in this special place.

Often when our family walks in Pioneer Park, we pause at existing benches, and read the loving memorials to individuals in which the benches are dedicated. It makes us love Pioneer Park even more knowing how much happiness it has given to generations of individuals who have spent time there. Placing a bench in Ewan's honor would bring tremendous joy to those of us who loved Ewan...to know that he is still with us, amongst us, and now part of our connection to this beautiful open space within Pioneer Park.

I understand the need to be thoughtful when considering new benches. It's a critical responsibility in order to keep our parks uncluttered and beautiful. This particular section of the park, however, seems to be flat, open and located at an intersection that is often considered an informal meeting place when waiting for friends. Having a bench for Ewan in this particular spot seems practical, increasing the likelihood that it will be utilized as a natural and relevant addition to the park. The Board's approval of this bench, would be a beautiful and lasting legacy for Ewan to share with his community and a meaningful way for his community to remember him.

Thank you for your kind consideration,

The Richter Family (Amy, George, Hans and Jack)
4448 Ferncroft Road, Mercer Island

Dear Open Space Conservatory^{ancy} Trust Board,

We would like to thank you for reviewing and considering our request for the addition of a bench in memory of our son, Ewan Lill, in Pioneer Park's NW Quadrant. We would also like to thank Mercer Island's Parks and Recreation Department. Community Engagement & Program Manager Diane Mortenson, has worked tirelessly with us and fielded many letters regarding Ewan's bench. Ryan Daly and Diane^{who} were very kind to meet us at the proposed site on Ewan's 10th birthday, Sept. 22, 2019, to discuss our vision. We would also like to thank the Park Operations Manager and tree expert, Alaine Sommargren, who has expressed her support of this proposal.

When Ewan was dying, I asked him what his favorite type of tree was. He said, "Maple"

I was surprised by this answer because three winters ago, a maple tree fell through the dining room ceiling of our Mercer Island Home. We spent two month's living out of the Residence Inn in Bellevue, while our house was restored.

When Alaine shared that the proposed location is under a maple tree, everything^{made} make sense to me. It's the location where Ewan would want^{us} to remember him. It is where his sister's IMS cross country team runs by every practice. It is where, for many years, I have met my friends on our morning walks with our dogs.

Ewan loved this location on MI. Our first year, we went letterboxing. Subsequent years. We walked the park when it was aglow with jack-o-lanterns. It is a special place to Ewan, our family and to many of his friends.

Today, especially on National Grieving Child Day, please consider our request for a bench for our beloved son and cherish Mercer Island resident.

^{and Letterboxing Recognition}
Sincerely,
Jenny Harrington Lill