

Laurelhurst Community Club

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January 13, 2011

Derrick Toba
Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Resources Division
950 Farman Avenue North
Enumclaw, Washington 98022

RE: Safety of Volunteers at Waterway No. 1

Dear Mr. Toba:

Pursuant to its Right of Entry Agreement with DNR, LCC is very conscientious in monitoring maintenance activities at Waterway No. 1 and ensuring that each volunteer has signed a Volunteer Agreement. Recently, three neighbors were involved in removing a heavy log from the mucky lake bottom. This was undertaken without knowledge or authorization of LCC or advice from the Fish and Wildlife Department regarding whether the log is important to habitat. We are concerned about the safety of neighbors who undertake such efforts on their own. LCC would like your advice on this as well as on monitoring activities at the waterway undertaken by individuals on their own.

Our Right of Entry Agreement states:

- 4.1 Licensee shall be fully and solely responsible for the management of the activities.
- 4.2 Licensee shall be fully and solely responsible for supervision and the safety of volunteers and employees.

One of the neighbors involved in the log removal effort is authorized under her Volunteer Agreements to water plants and pull weeds. Another is authorized to undertake "general cleanup" and this is understood to be limited to mowing of the weeds and grass during the growing season. These neighbors have basically worked on their own. LCC has asked them to report on their efforts so that their work can be included in the maintenance log that LCC provides to DNR but for some reason they are unwilling to do this. This work does not involve safety risks and LCC appreciates their efforts, but LCC has been at a loss as to how to secure their cooperation in reporting their maintenance activities. One of these neighbors participated in the group work party last year. The third volunteer is authorized to undertake mowing and maintenance and LCC is not aware of any activities he has undertaken in the last year.

Below is a photo of the log that the volunteers removed and left on the upland portion of the waterway. One end of this log is quite heavy, but the other end can be easily lifted.



One of the volunteers suggested that her husband, who participated in the log incident, could take an ax to the log and chop it up—also a hazardous undertaking. At LCC's January 10th trustee meeting, she asked that LCC make arrangements to remove the log and we do not have capability to do so, although perhaps in the Spring, the City would do this as part of the annual Spring Clean program.

For now, LCC needs direction on how to move forward to ensure the safety of volunteers and reporting of maintenance activities. We have been in touch with the Magnuson Environmental Stewardship Alliance (MESA), a group that is responsible for maintenance of Promontory Point at Seattle's Warren G. Magnuson Park and supervision of volunteers for many years. A representative from that group said that the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department prohibits any activities that could be dangerous to volunteers without supervision (e.g. climbing ladders, using motorized equipment, etc.). As we move forward to amend our Right of Entry Agreement, we should consider addressing safety issues.

Regarding individual maintenance activities, something that the Seattle Parks Department does not encourage, the Parks Department requires individuals that work on their own to complete a form documenting the work that they do and to submit that to MESA. Attached is the form that they use. Perhaps LCC and DNR should consider something similar for Waterway No. 1?

Please advise LCC as to how to proceed to ensure the safety of volunteers and reporting of maintenance activities. Thanks very much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Hale

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