

Membership Responses to Budget Feedback Survey, August 2023

The following feedback was copied directly from the 11 surveys submitted. Some entries were transcribed from mailed surveys and emailed entries. The names have been omitted here.

What questions or comments do you have for the Board regarding the 2023-2024 budget?

I appreciate the work of the trails committee and support their budget request for continued trail maintenance. By regularly applying gravel we increase safety and have seen an increase in the use of trails year round.

It is important to fund replacement of the section of fence on Olympic trail behind division for lot 34, where we have had several aggressive dog incidents. Our association fence that separates this property from our trail is badly sagging and some posts are rotted out. It is not protecting our trail users as it is intended. Keep dues the same. Put any excess in reserves. Add weed spraying of parks. If budget allows, help fund completion of picnic shelter.

Specific budget items: - In general most predicted expenses look appropriate - I would like to see some funds directed towards completing the picnic shelter projects listed in the March mailing. - Park 1 probably needs another weed spraying at ~\$1600 given the resurgence of false dandelions; doing so should not add to the "total expenses" line since it was budgeted and not done this year - Trails increase looks reasonable given future delivery costs will increase, and extra fencing needed for aggressive dogs. - The reserve fund amount needs updating to reflect increased cost of playground equipment, earlier date of replacement of playground equipment if desired, and mistake in one fence length. A "catch up" contribution is not unreasonable. - If target dues collected are higher than total expenses, add line item(s) describing where the excess funds will be used, so expenses and dues balance

General comments: - The target dues total should match the total expenses. RCWs give FCA the flexibility to raise or lower dues as needed. The rationale for raising dues to \$330 was that expenses had increased; does not the inverse apply as well? If you collect more dues than anticipated expenses, without disclosing the purpose of that excess, you are basically creating a "shadow budget" hidden from the membership. - At

the end of last FY, with all expenses paid, we had a total of \$13245 between checking and savings. The target excess funds has historically been \$5-10K so we are well beyond that, and current year surplus should increase that balance even more. We don't need any more savings for emergencies. - Any items budgeted last year and not done, but planned for next year, should be balanced out with a credit prior to calculating the total expenses; otherwise the members are being double billed.

We want to see funds allocated for a professional audit this year of FCA books. Many residents have asked for this to be done but have been brushed off by various Boards.

Curtail the Trail Committee spending and reduce their budget to only vital projects. Have them provide the membership with itemized statements for all the materials they buy. No more graveling of the Canyon. Why repeatedly spend money on gravel that washes out during heavy rains? So few people use this area.

Create a bylaw to state that all excess funds be automatically applied to the Reserve Fund until it is met the limit set by the Board.

Spend more money enhancing the Front entrance

The picnic shelter is not done. We still have to finish building the skirts on the posts. This should require some FCA funding.

Please support continued maintenance budget of 4K for trails, probably need increase due to cost of labor in case residents here are not available to do it for FREE!

As a relatively new homeowner here, I'm very impressed how much value is provided for our dues and I'm so impressed and grateful to the dedication and hard work of so many volunteers. The quality of the trails, parks, picnic shelter, and the retention pond is remarkable. Thank you!

Picnic shelter is not done, please see flyer board mailed three months ago, budget to match donations to finish.

What is the total amount spent by the trail committee since the volunteer group was formed? A few years ago it was over \$60,000. I think enough gravel has been used especially in the canyon which was proposed as a grassy meandering trail that would not cost the association one cent.

Fund the trails system at proposed levels as fencing repairs are needed in some locations per dog attacks and we anticipate a more robust winter than last, thereby needing trail patching. I recommend a couple of informational signs about mountain beavers, poison oak, nettles and other points of interest.

Fund the completion of the shelter as per the flier put out last year.

Do not alter the dues rates; place any unspent towards completion of the reserve fund. I believe we'll need those moneys sooner than later due to playground attrition. And there have been proposed projects that we have not pursued as funding has not been available, such as a small shelter at the playground, a trail around foxhall Park, a pickleball court at Foxtrail park.

As a trails committee member, I'm very pleased with how well the trails are. However, the world around us is changing. We have a serious Climate Disaster impending. We need to adjust. Park 1 does not need to be mowed more than 3-4 times/year. Park 2 probably once/year. Trail mowing could also be reduced- all reducing carbon emissions - and saving us \$\$! The time of perfect lawns is over, it's simply not worth adding to Climate Disaster.

Do you have any other questions or comments for the Board?

Please update the minutes on the website in a more timely fashion.

Please start having in-person Board meetings rather than zoom or perhaps have a combo of both. Also, make it a priority that Membership Meetings are held in a school or other suitable venue so all residents of Foxhall can easily and comfortably attend. Having Membership meetings such as the last election of Board members held in a barn was not acceptable to many. Please allow enough time to organize venues.

Fencing rebuilds in a number of places should be thought through. \$2,000 would be a good start.

Fencing is needed for aggressive dogs that are entering our trails, our property abuts one of these areas of concern. Funds for this should come from reserve to replace fencing. Weeds in parks need to be addressed. An idea for raising money to pay for some of this could be a community yard sale at the park with all proceeds to the parks projects. I have plenty to donate!

Perimeter fences along Foxhall boundaries, built by Foxhall years ago, need shoring up for safety (dogs) in places. Fund materials cost from reserve account and build with volunteers.

Perhaps funds allocated for trail gravel could go to the park/playground, but more importantly for the purchase of adequate and appropriate liability insurance for the nonresident equestrian use of the trail.

Thank you for your service to the community your efforts are protecting our property values and desirability.

Thank you for your support of the entire trail system. Thank you for your support of the shelter; people are using it and it's a great place for the community to meet.

Many people find the term "handicap" offensive. "People with disabilities" is an accepted term today. It would be nice to see our neighborhood recognize that we can no longer afford to do business as usual because we recognize that Climate Change must be taken seriously, for the sake of our grandchildren!