

Passings – Rick Fackler

Great Peninsula Conservancy is sad to convey the news that GPC Board member Rick Fackler passed away unexpectedly on May 23, 2009. Rick and his wife Roslyn Siegel were on vacation in Argentina at the time. It is believed that Rick had a heart attack or stroke.

Rick joined Great Peninsula Conservancy's Board of Directors in July 2007, and was scheduled to become president of GPC this July. Rick had tremendous expertise in land conservation, extensive personal contacts with GPC partners, and a passion for land conservation. He served as chair of GPC's Conservation Committee where he participated in many field visits to new conservation properties and helped shape the final projects. Rick was immensely respected and liked by his colleagues at GPC. We will miss his gentle manner and wealth of knowledge.

Rick was a lifelong advocate for parks and trails, and for open space preservation. He spent most of his career as a park planner, acquiring open space lands and building trails in Whatcom and Kitsap counties, and the City of Bellingham. Rick retired as Kitsap County Parks Planner and Acting Parks & Recreation Director in 2003, but continued to do consulting work related to Kitsap County Parks projects until earlier this year. During his career with Kitsap County, Rick helped acquire over 4,000 acres of open space land throughout the County and helped draft the County's Open Space Plan.

A memorial service will be held for Rick Fackler on Saturday, June 20 at 2:00 p.m. in Bellingham at Moles Bayview Chapel (molesfuneralhomes.com), 2465 Lakeway Drive (corner of Lakeway Drive and Woburn Street). Condolences may be sent to Roslyn Siegel at 5251 19th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105.