

January 12, 2011 – Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of the Friends of Sausal Creek, a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation

Attending Board Members: Carl Kohnert, Helen McKinley, Sean Welch, Richard Kauffman, Kristin Ohlson, Paul Frank, Eleanor Dunn, Pat Bacchetti, Bob Roat, Sarah Nathe

Staff: Kimra McAfee, Megan Hess

Guests: Karen Paulsell, Jeff Chilcott, Kathleen Harris

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Closed Session - New board members voted in were Bob Roat and Sarah Nathe.

Approval of December 2010 Minutes - The December minutes were adopted unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Policy - Board Member signatures were collected in accordance with the annual IRS requirements for non-profit status relative to “Conflict of Interest” disclosure.

Proposition 84 Report - Paul Frank provided a status update on the revisions to the proposal that we will submit to California Dept. of Water Resources for funding under Proposition 84. If accepted, FOSC will be able to move forward on several storm drain erosion remediation projects that have been highlighted in our Watershed Management Plan.

Recognition of Jeff Chilcott, Nursery Volunteer - Board members formally recognized Jeff for his leadership and significant work accomplished in the nursery expansion.

Committee Reports - (A) Fundraising Committee - (1) Endowment - The Board is preparing for discussion of this at the upcoming Board Retreat on January 23, 2011; (2) The fundraising sign-up sheet was circulated for updating. (3) The Board discussion on fundraising included (a) ideas for participation in the Oakland Marathon with “pledge” runs and donations through the event website; (b) ideas and Board member participation with proposal preparation in response to the “Every Day Grants” (National Environmental Education Foundation) solicitation for Capacity Building Projects; and (c) the need for a Board member to work on pursuing corporate sponsorships from outdoor clothing and equipment companies. (B) Nursery Committee – The current Committee members are Karen Paulsell, Jeff Chilcott, Nancy Jones, Pat Bacchetti, Kristin Ohlson, and Megan Hess. Membership is open and the committee will meet again this month or next. Megan provided an update on the nursery upgrades: With the expansion largely completed, the new sink station is about to be installed and new tables built, the shade structure irrigation is nearing completion, and the teaching areas and plant areas will be completed soon. (C) Restoration Committee – The Committee has not met recently, but ideas that have been circulating (Karen, Richard, Paul, and Mark) are (a) site walks to generate interest in specific project ideas, and (b) specific smaller focused volunteer projects (as opposed to the big workdays). Several hundred additional plants are slated to go in to the watershed this month and next.

(D) Karen Paulsell floated the idea for a “Storm Drain Committee” that could organize a series of field trips to look at drainage issues, stormwater problems, and erosion sites in the watershed, in the interest of prioritizing projects and generating interest in participation.

President's Report - Carl highlighted the proposal that came from American Society of Landscape Architects' Emerging Professionals Committee to take the lead on a landscape design Project of our choosing. The Board is now focused on a few priority ideas that we can go back to the Committee with and discuss for final selection of a project.

Woodbine Corner Project - This agenda item was tabled for another meeting.

Executive Director's Report - (A) Annual Appeal Update - Kimra reports that FOSC has increased end of year donations from prior years, perhaps attributable to the electronic message reminder that we have not employed before. (B) Cash Flow & Grants Update – Kimra reports cash flow improved from last month. While we missed being selected for an Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program Community Stewardship grant and a R.O.O.F. grant, we have gotten \$3000 from Alameda County Fish and Game and \$1,000 through buildOn for a tree planting project. Kimra also made some cost-saving suggestions for Board consideration of upgrading and reorganizing the Newsletter with a more sophisticated platform that could provide a wider range of information with options to telescope in on links for more detail on a variety of topics – and elimination of paper mail outs. Kimra will present some initial changes to Alameda County Flood Control for approval. (C) Board Member Support – all of the 2011 member meeting events are covered by Board volunteers now. (D) Events for 2011

- (1) Board and Key Volunteer Event – Discussion was tabled due to time.
- (2) Earth Day Workday – April 16, 2010
- (3) Spring – Dimond Park Demonstration Garden Workshops – Megan will coordinate these for the Apr/May time-frame to meet part of our Coastal Conservancy Grant obligation;
- (4) Summer – Watershed Walk with Friends of Five Creeks – to be coordinated.
- (5) Tentative – Soil Bioengineering Workshop following Megan's attendance at the Portland program

Calendar Review & Outreach Action Items - Newsletter deadline January 17; Carl will write a State of the Creek item; and the recognition for Jeff Chilcott will be included.

Thank You Note Distribution - Board members shared the task of getting handwritten thank you notes out to all of our donors.

Upcoming Events:

- Nursery Workday – Thursday, December 9, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Solstice Planting: Dimond Canyon – Saturday, December 11, 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Solstice Planting: Barry Place, Sequoia Arena, Shepherd Canyon, Wood Park – Saturday December 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Nursery Workday – Thursday, December 16, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Nursery Workday – Saturday, January 8, 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Member Meeting – Friends of San Leandro Creek – Wednesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Board and Staff Retreat – Sunday, January 23, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm; Next meeting to be held February 9, 2011.