

FOSC Board Meeting Minutes Draft – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Attending:

Mark Rauzon, Harry Schrauth, Sue Morgan, Eleanor Dunn, Helen McKinley, Sheelah Weaver, Sara Marcellano, Michael Thilgen

1) **Board Retreat:**

set for Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 hours – strategy session, review business plan, engage in the kind of long term planning missed by monthly meetings, which handle more immediate issues

2) **Earth Day Review:**

200 volunteers – 3 sites - good events - lots of extra sausages! – thanks to Pat for getting 200 lbs donated from Saag's

Dimond invoice for ivy removal - \$4300 bill to J Quan's office, filled city trucks, freed trees

Nursery much done to prep for plant sale, 43 Student Conservation Assoc volunteers all day – great workers! Grant for Friends of Parks and Rec for materials to build new planting tables

Barry Pl FOSC regulars plus Barry Pl neighbors, canopy opened for several young oaks, ivy removed, 50 natives planted in gravel bar where remnant strand of creek parsley grows, good interaction with immediate neighbor

Need better coordination with the city – support offered by city was last minute, some help from new Dimond director, Michelle

3) **Plant Sale:**

Karen Paulsell's email summary of event

In short: labor intensive, tho some work will not need repeating and nursery now looks wonderful

Benefits: new exposure; new names on mailing list, improved funding mix makes us more attractive to funders and adds stability to income

*We do not want the nursery to change its primary purpose to growing plants for sale – sell only surplus plants?*

*Permit process* – applied early last November, get on Parks & Rec Advisory Cmtee Mtg

Publicity – from DIA announcements, lists serves, flyers, J Quan newsletter, Bringing Back the Natives Tour directed people to Native Plant Nursery from other gardens and their publicity – suggested folks get lunch at the Nursery

More volunteers are needed at the nursery to maintain, increase production for restoration and plant sales

Helen offers to work at nursery one Sat a month

ecology lab at O'Dowd has 3 acre garden, might partner for training, volunteer opportunities – Pat is on O'Dowd garden committee

Kristen – too close to Earth Day,

fall better time for planting weighed against gardeners habit of planting in spring not ready for two sales a year

need more knowledgeable plant experts – Kristen and Karen answering ?s, giving talks all day – very popular!

Ideas: give kids small plants, get pictures 6 mo later of growth, use in marketing

Great plan by Kristen- FOSC will need to evaluate whether amount of work justifies results

Great event!

#### 4) **Finances:**

Sara's financial & fundraising report

Plant sale: \$6881 deposited

Sue sent invoice to Alameda Clean Water for \$7K

Thru end of June - \$19.5K (does not include ed program bill or unexpected expenses)

Total of grants received: \$26,117

OUSD overbilled us? – Eleanor will review contract

#### In Process

Goldman- discuss at retreat

Watershed Project – plan to ask for assistance updating database (40-60 service hours)

USFW – Sara emailed Rick Morat ; approach for pallid restoration, how should we ask for this?

SF Found Bay Fund – for ed program, due in June

East Bay Bike Coalition – someone needs to contact them

Rose – Sara and Sheelah to write, due end of May

Acorn – possibly for Barry Pl in future

Patagonia – Due Aug 31

Regional Board - \$180K for Watershed management and Hydrology study/plan (see below)

#### Submitted

Weeden Foundation – LOI submitted for \$20K for ed program

County Clean Water – \$2.5 for trail map; will know by June

SF Foundation – \$20K leadership award; will know by Sept

Wells Fargo – \$5K to sponsor work days; will hear in a few months

SF Bay Foundation - \$46K for watershed plan; will know in August

#### Received

Bella Vista Foundation - \$20K for redwood site restoration next fiscal year

Friends of Park & Rec - \$1K for nursery improvements

#### Grants Denied

PG&E – for anniversary party

#### Grants Tabled

Five Star, March '07

5) **Hydro Study:**

Write grant for watershed assessment to Regional Water Quality Control Board – sewer & drainage throughout watershed: plan + workshops

Long discussion ensues; below is summary:

GIS material required, i.e. map of city storm drains, available? On city master plans? – some needed data elements may not be available, making study/plan more expensive to create

Huge project – 2 years, will need more staff

Contractor is Laural Marcus

How to split grant to pay contractor and cover salaries for increased staff to manage project

How did \$46K field study morph into \$180K study? – discussion of process #1 priority of restoration committee

Helen offers to look at concept proposal

\$46K from Bay Fund is required matching \$; if we do not receive from Bay Fund we will have to find from another source – could count some in kind service (volunteers)

How much work to put grant together? To manage study?

If Laurel writes grant, does she know what FOSC needs?

Michael “it is backwards for the managing party to do so little of the work, for the hired contractor to take so much of the \$”

Applicant has to be non profit

Impact if successful on nursery, future plant sales, Kristen’s time?

FOSC provides: admin, workshops, data collection

Laurel provides study – will look for info/assistance from FOSC throughout process

Laurel already has other hydro studies lined up

Cannot defer until next year – funds will not be available

Cash flow reimbursement issues discussed

Does this assume a large group of volunteers?

Concern about rigors of dealing with governments agencies

Conclusion: email discussion of hydro study to continue, Eleanor authorized to decide after talk talking to Laurel, feedback from board and restoration committee

6) **Ed Program:**

Current funding commitment for 06-07: \$10K from Dean Whitter requires matching funds)

Other grants: \$25K to Fosters

Could the program work on just one day? (~\$20K per day) since 2 days are field, 1 day is for coordinating

Not much reporting this year

*Sue recuses herself*

~\$12K short for 05-06

Eleanor – long term goal is board should absorb fundraising for ed program  
exposes disconnect; board not informed of ed program fundraising  
ed program competing with other programs for \$  
Sue invited on board to help resolve this, which created another problem:  
Sue is her own employer; by laws prohibit self-dealing transactions  
Is this a violation of state laws?  
No, school sets salary, which is within normal range  
No admin overhead in Sue's budget  
Do we want ed program? Good for outreach, diversity, recruiting  
High cost – could we continue the program at a lower cost?

*Board approves Eleanor's proposal to contract only for the amount which  
committed funds can support (attachment B)*

**7) Next meeting agenda item:**  
Waivers

Sheelah Weaver  
FOSC Secretary  
July 12, 2006

**ATTACHMENT B:**

**Passed Motion:**

The FOCS Board strongly supports the Education Program. To insure financial stability of the program and the organization, the Board authorizes the president to sign a contract with the OUSD for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 under the following guidelines:

If \$20,417 is committed to the program at the time the contract is signed, the President may sign for 20% time (ie 1 day a week).

If \$40,834 is committed to the program at the time the contract is signed, the President may sign for 40% time (ie 2 days a week).

If the full program funding is available (\$61,250), the President may sign for 60% time.

If further funding for the program becomes available after the contract is signed and the teacher is still available, the contract with the district may be amended following the above guidelines.