

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 7-9 p.m.
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church
4101 Park Blvd., Room 35 on 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94602**

Friends of Sausal Creek works to restore, maintain, and protect the Sausal Creek Watershed. We educate future generations, involve the community in local environmental stewardship, and collaborate with agencies and other nonprofits to have a positive impact on the local ecosystem.

Present Richelle Jacobs, Eleanor Dunn, Jeff Stephens, Beth Keer, Steve Ritchie, Richard Kauffman, Rob Leidy, Tim Vendlinski, Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus)

Absent Paul Frank, Carl Kohnert, Sean Welch, Erin Patch, Mark Rauzon

Staff Present Anna Marie Schmidt, Executive Director

Guest Present Stan Dodson

Board Involvement

Solstice Planting Day - Saturday, December 22, Dimond Canyon and other sites

State of the Watershed – Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 - 9:00, Dimond Library

King Tide Walk – Sunday, January 20, 10:00 a.m.

MLK Day Workday – Monday, January 21, at various sites

Planting Workdays - 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:00, Dimond Canyon

Board and Staff Retreat - Saturday, February 9, location TBD

Remarks

This will be Richard's final board meeting as President.

Stan Dodson, looking to help resurrect the Redwood Restoration Committee of Friends of Joaquin Miller Park, asked the board whether FOSC would consider getting involved in Save the Redwoods League's plan to upgrade protection of Redwood Glen. The League wants to educate the public about redwood roots -- the concern is how much they are being trampled -- and is planning to recommend a circulation

plan involving a dedicated pass through the grove, and including interpretive panels. Does FOSC want to give input on the interpretive panels? He also wondered whether we would consider authorizing Nicki to educate the daycare teachers who hold class in the Glen about caring for the redwoods. The board was in favor of more education, but since these daycare teachers are frequently parent volunteers, training them may not be cost effective, given their high turnover -- unless a separate source of funding were identified. Stan agreed to keep FOSC updated regarding next steps with Save the Redwoods. Anna Marie said she would look for and pass on documents related to the old Redwood Restoration Committee. Kimra had been an active member of that committee.

Ricky inquired whether board members wanted refreshments at the meetings. For those who do, she passed around a sign-up sheet. She also asked Anna Marie to provide a stack of FOSC envelopes so people easily could ask friends and family for donations to FOSC as an alternative to material holiday gifts.

Financial Report

Anna Marie went over the Project Timeline and Cash Flow as well as giving an update on FOSC's Operating Reserve.

The board talked about the value of our annual plant sale as a worthwhile public event though not a significant money-maker. The plant sale represents about 200 hours of volunteer time, promotes other FOSC events, and teaches the public about native plants.

Anna Marie has hired Pam Eguchi as our new bookkeeper.

Fundraising Updates

Jeff gave details about the strategies employed, and the results to date from our End-of-Year Appeal campaign 2018. This campaign brought in \$19,000 to date, with donations continuing to be recorded through the end of January. From the Facebook promotion on *Giving Tuesday* we brought in \$9000, \$2500 of which was from board members. While no formal match from Facebook was achieved, focusing fundraising around a specific event like *Giving Tuesday* helps motivate FOSC supporters.

Richard explained that FOSC has received a Rose Foundation grant which has two prongs: one is to hire a development consultant to help us expand fundraising and improve our cash flow. To that end, he

will meet with Kerry Beuthin, a non-profit fundraising consultant experienced in private grants. The other prong is the support of monitoring and restoration in Dimond Canyon.

Tim reported on his research into federal grants, including Five Star Urban Waters and Environmental Justice, whose available grants are relatively small. To get more funding from either would require our submitting a major work plan, which he thinks is worth considering in the future. For a larger grant from Environmental Justice, we would need to focus our application on a very specific project. Both organizations support grants for anadromous fish projects, which are right up our alley. (Ricky asked for a definition of *anadromous*. Tim explained: A fish born in fresh water which spends most of its life in the sea, and then returns to fresh water to spawn. The rainbow trout in Sausal Creek would change into steelhead trout if they were able to reach the Pacific Ocean. However, since they are landlocked due to stream blockages they never experience the morphological change into steelhead, and remain living and reproducing in Sausal Creek as rainbow trout.)

Board Member Discussion

The board voted unanimously to grant Jeff Stephens administrative access to Salesforce, to support Anna Marie with reporting and forecasting.

The board reviewed the Master Calendar for 2019, corrected the Creek to Bay Day date (September 21st), and rescheduled the October board meeting from the 9th to the 16th, in deference to Yom Kippur.

Plans were put in place for the State of the Watershed 2019 Citizen Science program the evening of January 16th. The board decided to schedule an additional half hour poster session and social time, prior to the meeting, for site leaders to share information about their sites with interested parties. Stan was thanked for donating La Farine baked goods for these community gatherings in the past and for this upcoming meeting.

The February 9, 2019 Board and Staff retreat was discussed. The topic will be *New Staff/Old Board: Planning for the Year(s) Ahead*. The plan is to hear details from staff about how their jobs are going and what they need from the board. Individual board members will report on their projects -- e.g., Rob about the trout plan, Richard about

Beaconsfield and vegetation management -- and the possibility of addressing a few dreams we might take concrete steps towards realizing. Steve volunteered to facilitate. Beth offered her house as the meeting venue.

Voting in 2019 Board of Directors Officers

The following officers were unanimously voted in for 2019 one-year terms:

President: Jeff Stephens

Vice President: Eleanor Dunn

Secretary: Richelle ("Ricky") Jacobs

Treasurer: Beth Keer

Minutes and Commitments Review

Harry reminded the board of the many ways Lesley Estes, who is retiring and therefore leaving her position as Manager of the Watershed and Measure DD Department, has been a friend to FOSC. He recommended we authorize two thank you gifts in appreciation of her: *a Resolution Honoring Lesley Estes Upon her Retirement from the Public Works Agency, City of Oakland*, and a framed Aldrich photograph. These were agreed upon unanimously.

The board also voted unanimously that Anna Marie be designated as our authorized representative to the California Coastal Commission to execute grant agreements, including the current Whale Tail grant if we receive an award from them.

Minutes from the October 10th, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved.

For the Future Fund Endowment Committee Report

Jeff reported on the ups and downs of the stock market, and that we received some donations specific to the *For the Future Fund* as part of our End-of-Year fundraising appeal.

Executive Director Responds to Questions on Staff Report

Anna Marie and board members chimed in with various updates:

Richard: Nicki and Alex have done twenty classroom restoration talks and field trips; Anna Marie: Alex is leaving when his internship ends, so we will be in search of a new intern; Rob: 410 pounds of garbage were pulled from the creek and its banks at the Trash Out last Sunday.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

(The next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.)