

**Friends of Sausal Creek  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 7-9 p.m.  
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church  
4101 Park Blvd., Room 35 on 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, Beth Keer, Tim Vendlinski, Jeff Stephens, Carl Kohnert, Shannon Louie (Student Board Member), Rob Leidy, Steve Ritchie, Paul Frank, Sean Welch, Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus)

**Absent** Mark Rauzon (Board Member Emeritus)

**Staff Present** Anna Marie Schmidt (Executive Director), Jay Cassianni (Restoration and Nursery Manager)

**Guests** Barry Stenger, retired E.D. of St. Anthony's; Morgan Capilla, EPA Policy Specialist

**Board Involvement**

**Board and Staff Retreat**- Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m - 1:00, Beth Keer's home

**Introduction to iNaturalist** - Sunday, March 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00, Dimond Park

**Community Talk: Park Rx (Mona Koh)** - Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Dimond Library

**50th Anniversary of Earth Day** - Saturday, April 18, 8:45 a.m. Board help needed.

**Planting and Nursery Workdays**- 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

**Remarks from the President, Jeff Stephens**

Jeff thanked Barry and Morgan for coming to the meeting. The Board introduced themselves, and Morgan spoke briefly about her work at EPA as a National Environmental Policy Act Specialist where she reviews Environmental Impact Statements.

### **Fundraising Update, Jeff Stephens and Anna Marie Schmidt**

Jeff and Anna Marie updated the board about the results of the End-of-Year Appeal, which compared favorably to that of 2018. Letters and emails were sent to donors and prospective donors. We received 243 donations, totaling \$41,200, \$4100 of which came from board members. The average donation from non-board members was \$158, up \$7 from last year, while 65% of the total donations were in the \$26 to \$100 range. We received a 50% response rate from the letters we sent. Twelve community members donated \$1000 or more.

Anna Marie went over the details of grants received and those that are still outstanding. She expressed hope that we will be able to contract again with Team Oakland this summer.

Beth, Eleanor, and Ricky spoke briefly about how to ask friends and relatives for donations to FOSC in lieu of personal gifts.

Anna Marie passed out notecards for board members personally to thank donors who gave \$250 or more. She talked about the Rainmakers' idea of making personal phone calls to thank and update donors who were able to give sizeable donations, letting them know about FOSC's accomplishments and how their money is used.

### **Financial Report, Anna Marie Schmidt**

Anna Marie updated the board on the Projects Timeline and Cash Flow. She reported that the plant storage contract with the City -- providing us with \$850/month income -- ended in January, 2020. We will submit a bid for a new contract, but it is unclear if that will go forward. We stored their plants for a City project that has now been put on the back burner.

We were able to add \$6600 to the reserve fund, bringing us closer to our \$57,000 goal.

### **FTF Endowment Update on Socially Responsible Investing, Carl Kohnert**

Carl reported that the Endowment Committee is looking around for Social Index Funds other than Vanguard's. Meanwhile, Vanguard sent a letter saying they are bringing their social index fund -- in which we are currently invested -- up to a higher standard. They are adding a fossil fuel screen to put an end to coal, oil, and gas, and instigating

anti-corruption criteria, vice screens, and company conduct screens. He will meet with his personal advisor to get more detailed information next week, and will give a report to the board at the April meeting.

### **Commitments Review and Minutes**

Anna Marie reviewed upcoming board involvement events and announced that Mark Rauzon was nominated as a Local Hero in District 4! There was general conversation about marking Earth Day's 50th anniversary on April 18, as well as participating in the Sudden Oak Death Blitz on May 23.

Jeff laid out the plans for our March 8th Board and Staff Retreat. Two to four topics will be chosen before the meeting. Attendees will divide into smaller groups to do a deeper dive into these topics, coming up with practical ideas for their implementation. He will send an email with more details in advance of the retreat.

The minutes from the December 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction. With that revision, Steve moved to adopt them, and Jeff seconded the motion.

### **Executive Director Responds to Questions on the Staff Report**

On MLK Day we had 200 people working in watershed.

Ideas were batted around as to where the funds might come from to replace the aging shade cloth at the nursery.

Tim reported that our saws are not big enough to prune the larger trees surrounding the nursery. He sought ideas about how a professional tree company might be enticed to help out.

There were approximately 62 attendees at The State of the Watershed community meeting in January. Speakers included Kristin Hathaway, from the City's Watershed and Stormwater/Water Management Division; Lieutenant Jesse Kuper, of the Oakland Fire Dept; Brandon Harimi, representing Councilmember Sheng Thao; Talia Rubin, of the Community Housing Services Division; Ron Oen, Melissa Louge, and Shahram Aghamir reporting on the Leimert Bridge Seismic Retrofit Project; and Sharon Gosselin, of the Alameda County Flood and Water Conservation Division.

Barry, Carl and Jeff have taken on the promotion of Legacy Giving.

Jeff reported that the King Tides Walk on January 20 suffered from its own success -- 75 people showed up, many of whom had difficulty hearing Dennis Evanosky's talk about the history of the waterway along the Oakland shoreline and the effect of the King Tides. Ideas were suggested about how to improve this popular event for next year.

Anna Marie reported that our taxes were almost done.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m., followed by a closed session. That session ended at 9:18 p.m.

**Next board meeting:** April 15, 2020, 7:00 p.m. This date was adjusted to accommodate Passover.