

**Friends of Sausal Creek  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 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, Jeff Stephens, Richard Kauffman, Rob Leidy, Paul Frank, Carl Kohnert, Mark Rauzon, Tim Vendlinski,

**Absent** Sean Welch, Erin Patch, Beth Keer, Steve Ritchie, Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus)

**Staff Present** Anna Marie Schmidt, Executive Director

**Board Involvement**

**Leimert Bridge Seismic Retrofit** - March 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.,  
Dimond Recreation Center

**Member Meeting** - Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.,  
Dimond Library, Johnella LaRose of the Sogorea Te Land  
Trust

**Dimond Park Project: Planting Maintenance Needs** –  
March 21, 10:00 a.m. (FOSC and Ben Livsey), Dimond Park

**Restoration Committee Meeting** – March 21, 7:00 p.m.,  
Location TBD

**Planting Workdays** - 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.,  
Sites TBD

**Earth Day** - Saturday, April 20, 9:00 - 12:00

**Introductions and Remarks from President, Jeff Stephens**

Jeff thanked everyone for their participation in our board retreat.

**Financial Report, Anna Marie Schmidt**

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

The Steering Committee decided to transfer funds from our checking account to the savings account. This was done to replenish the Operating Reserve, which had previously been accessed to bolster cash flow. A total of \$5247 donated in 2018, specifically earmarked for our *For The Future* endowment fund, has been transferred into that FTF account. Roles and authorizations for FOSC's various financial accounts were reviewed for clarity.

Anna Marie presented the City's request for temporary storage of 3500 of their plants at the FOSC nursery for the remainder of the year (April through December). The board considered the pros and cons without making a decision, since we are awaiting more specific information from the City.

### **For the Future Fund Endowment Committee Report, Carl Kohnert**

As of February 13, 2019 there is \$126,727 in the FTF fund. We use a 60-40 targeted moderate growth. Donations specifically directed to the fund during 2018 have been successfully transferred.

### **Fundraising Updates, Jeff Stephens**

Jeff recapped the results of our End-of-Year 2018 Appeal. Approximately 450 letters were sent out, yielding 225 donations. The average amount of those donations was \$145.

Now is the time to plan the Mid-Year 2019 Appeal. We hope to raise \$17,000. Last year, beginning with our mid-April postcard blitz, we raised \$16,000 (\$10,000 of which came from the board) between Earth Day and Mothers' Day. The board brainstormed about which methods to employ. Here are some of the ideas generated: sending out postcards or a letter, offering a donor-sponsored hike in the watershed, themed talks, "matching" donations, offering donors the option of targeted purchases for FOSC, a sponsored field trip, creating a *Go Fund Me* account or other online component, extending to a larger network. Mark offered a six-hour bird-a-thon, with donors paying a certain amount per sighted bird. He strongly recommended we reach out to realtors.

Richard reported on the work consultant Kerry Beuthin is doing for FOSC. Her services are being paid for by part of a grant we received from The Rose Foundation. She will produce a shortlist of grant opportunities and do grant writing for us on a few of the top grants, as

her contract allows. A meeting will be scheduled soon to review her initial work.

### **Board Member Discussion**

#### **- Erosion Control Project in Dimond Canyon: Tour and Celebration**

With the planting now more than 2/3 finished, the City is urging us to come up with a date for public celebration of the completion of this project. May 11 is a probable date. The board considered some possible activities for the occasion: a bird walk? A trout talk and walk? Anna Marie will check to see if Kevin Mar at DWR is available that day. Carl volunteered to work with her and Oakland staff to solidify activities.

#### **- Dimond Park Planting Maintenance Needs**

Ben Livsey (City of Oakland) alerted Jay and Anna Marie that the planting maintenance needs of the daylighted portion of Sausal Creek will return to FOSC as D-Line (Shelterbelt) completes their contract in June, 2019. He will conduct a walk-through on March 21st, 10 a.m. Richard and Tim volunteered to participate. Given Michael Thilgen's extensive history with the Dimond Park daylighting, he will be invited to participate. Concern was expressed that FOSC might be saddled with an unfunded mandate to oversee park infrastructure along the creek.

#### **- Fishing**

Because of a poaching incident in January (and other such reports of fishing in the creek), the board supported increasing community awareness about the creek's rainbow trout. Nicki will include a piece about this in the newsletter.

#### **- Board Recruitment**

There are two open seats on the board of directors. The board has considerable interest in diversifying its membership. Additionally, we have a third, non-voting, seat available for a college student. Recruitment strategies were discussed. Mark, a founding father of FOSC, announced his intention to move into Emeritus status. Questions about length of service and voting status for Emeritus members were fielded, warranting further investigation.\*

### **Minutes and Commitments Review**

A correction of a date mix-up was made for the December 12, 2018, minutes. Aside from that, they were unanimously approved.

The board unanimously approved Wendy Tokuda's request that we sign onto a letter to State Assembly members from the California Invasive Plant Council seeking funding for weed management areas.

Rob volunteered to show up at the Leimert Bridge Seismic Retrofit meeting on March 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dimond Recreation Center. Jay will also be present.

Anna Marie will invite Michael Thilgen to participate, along with Richard and Tim, at the Dimond Park Project: Planting Maintenance Needs visit on March 21 at 10:00 a.m.

FOSC's next Member Meeting will take place on March 20th at the Dimond Library. One of the founders of the Sogorea Te Land Trust, Johnella LaRose, will be speaking about Ohlone history and current revitalization of indigenous groups.

A sign-up sheet seeking Earth Day crew leaders and volunteers was passed around.

#### **- Staff Report**

There is a leak in the nursery office. Jay is reaching out to Matt Moses to see about repair. Paul volunteered to have a look.

Our new intern is Moises Alvarez.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The board went into Closed Session at 8:51 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

#### **\*Update from FOSC Bylaws on Board Member Emeritus Status (3/17/2019):**

Section 2A. Board Member Emeritus. "Emeritus members shall serve three (3) year renewable terms for as long as they remain active in the work of Friends of Sausal Creek, and may end their term at any time...A Board Member Emeritus shall not be subject to any attendance policy, counted in determining if a quorum is present at a meeting, entitled to hold office, or entitled to vote at any Board meeting."

