

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2017, 7-9 p.m.
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park Blvd., Room 35 on 3rd Floor, Oakland**

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, Richard Kauffman, Harry Schrauth, Carl Kohnert, Barbara Goldenberg, Eleanor Dunn, Mark Rauzon, Steve Ritchie, Rob Leidy, Tim Vendlinski, Jeff Stephens

Absent Paul Frank, Bob Roat, Sean Welch

Staff Present Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Guests Stan Dodson, *Oakland Trails*; Jen Stern, *City of Oakland Environmental Services*; and Hailey Hirata, Tyler Terry, Lauren Davis, Natalie Noack, Arnold Koo: students at *Life Chiropractic College West*.

Board Involvement

Nursery Workdays – Sat., Aug. 12 & 26, Sept. 9 & 23, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Board and Staff Retreat – Tour of the Bridgeview Pollinator Garden by site leader Kathleen Harris - Sun., Aug. 27, 9 a.m.-noon

Creek to Bay Day – Sat., Sept. 16, morning

Creek to Bay Day Sign-Up Sheet circulated;

Member Meeting – Igor Lacan: *Our Urban Forest* – Wed., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

Oaktoberfest – Sat., Sept. 30, and Sun., Oct. 1

Native Plant Sale – Sun., Oct. 22, all day. Native Plant Sale Sign-Up Sheet circulated.

7:00 **Remarks from President**

Jen Stern of Oakland Environmental Services spoke about *Creek to Bay Day* and *Keep Oakland Beautiful* grants and encouraged participation. She provided event posters in both English and Spanish for wider distribution.

Guests from Life Chiropractic College West introduced themselves and explained they were attending this meeting for the "Experience the Community" requirement in their public health class.

7:05 **Welcome New Board Members**

The board welcomed new members Jeff Stephens and Tim Vendlinski.

7:10 **Board Member Briefing Stan Dodson on unnamed trails in the watershed and Fern Ravine Trail - Proposal Part 2**

Stan gave an update on the progress of several projects he is working on in the watershed. The fence at Fern Ravine has been extended; a causeway is being planned on some of the muddy sections of trail. He detailed the improvements made to the Lower Palos Colorados Trail and described those slated for September. For safety

reasons, names for several unnamed trails are under consideration, including the Dimond Canyon's Trail connector to Old Cañon Trail, Castle Park Trail's connector to Moon Gate/West Ridge Trail; Sanborn Drive's connector to Sinawik Trail; and Big Trees' Trail connector through PAL Camp.

Additionally, Stan is in the process of exploring the possibility of corporate funding to print more trail maps.

7:25 **Vision Statement Revision Approval**

The board studied the proposed update to FOSC's Vision Statement. The following version was approved unanimously.

On its six-mile course from the Oakland hills to the bay, Sausal Creek teems with life. It is home to thriving populations of fish, insects, and amphibians. Dozens of species of birds nest or rest in the lush canopy above its banks. A trail follows the creek for much of its course, and like the diverse communities through which it travels, it takes a variety of forms--here a rugged dirt track through lush ferns and redwoods, there a work of urban art marking the creek as it travels under a busy thoroughfare. The contiguous trail not only unites neighborhoods but brings attention to the creek and its watershed as invaluable natural assets. Neighborhoods increasingly incorporate native plants into the urban landscape. Creekside parks offer people a moment in nature to listen to the birds, watch for local animals, hike a creekside trail, or picnic on the shady banks. Students use the creek and the urban forest as a living laboratory to learn about local ecosystems. Hundreds of volunteers turn out regularly to restore and maintain the varied habitats throughout the entire 2,500-acre watershed. Once buried, hidden, or neglected for much of its course, the creek has re-emerged as a community centerpiece. The benefits and enjoyment of nature are no longer far away, but right here in our own back yards.

7:40 **Board Discussion Requests for Honoring Loved Ones**

Kimra explained that staff must frequently field requests from people who would like to honor or memorialize a friend or loved one. She sought suggestions from the board for how we might comply with those requests within reasonable guidelines. Many ideas were put on the table. A decision was made to revisit this at the October meeting.

Jen showed the board the mock-up for the bandanas that *Oakland Environmental Services* will be distributing at *Creek to Bay Day*.

7:55 **Minutes and Commitments Review**

Minutes from the June meeting were unanimously approved with a minor addition.

Kimra reported on the final accounting from the *East Bay Gives* campaign in May: the check totaled \$17,548.59, with \$707.44 paid in total fees. She also gave the board the news that there will be no *East Bay Gives* campaign in 2018 as the *East Bay Community Foundation* is redirecting its priorities. We will therefore need to strategize on how to keep mid-year appeal momentum, finding a way to make up for lost revenue from *EBG* prizes.

8:00 **Endowment Committee Report**

Carl's and Steve's terms on this committee concluded on July 13th. The board unanimously voted in new members: Steve will serve another two-year term; Carl will complete the remaining year of Helen's term; Jeff will come on for two years. Carl

announced that the next committee meeting will be in September, promising a report to the board in October or December.

8:10 **Financial Report**

Kimra reviewed the Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart as well as the Operating Reserve Update with the board. The Operating Reserve Fund is currently at \$32,196 -- about \$10,500 short of our new goal.

8:25 **Executive Director Responds to Questions on Staff Report**

Kimra read a letter of appreciation from Mike Perlmutter on *Team Oakland*, with especial thanks to Jill. She also gave updates on some grants she's applying for in the Fruitvale, with Jeff's help. One of these is the new Request for Qualifications for the "Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Program, Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Communities Grant" we applied to in August, 2016. There is another step yet to process -- finding out more about the qualifications of the partners who are applying. Request for Qualifications will be due around September 30.

Josie de la Cruz Park: Kimra reported the design recommendations by the Daily Acts permaculture class are closely aligned with many *Walkable Watershed Concept Plan* recommendations. As a first step she hopes to support a *Creek to Bay Day* workday at the park. She strongly urged that someone from the board attend.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m., followed by a closed session.