

Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
December 9, 2015, 7-9 p.m.
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church
4101 Park Blvd., Oakland, CA 94602

Our mission is to promote awareness and appreciation of the Sausal Creek Watershed and to inspire action that will help preserve and protect the creek and its watershed as both natural and community resources.

Board Members Present Carl Kohnert, Harry Schrauth, Steve Ritchie, Barbara Goldenberg, Helen McKinley, Dee Rosario, Richelle Jacobs, Sean Welch, Eleanor Dunn.

Absent Mark Rauzon, Bob Roat, Richard Kauffman, Paul Frank, Rob Leidy

Staff Present Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Guest Linda Stonier of the National Park Service

Board Involvement and Announcements

State of the Watershed – Wednesday, Jan. 20, 7:00 p.m., Dimond Library. Kimra passed around a sign-up sheet for board participation in this event.

Student Walk/Celebration -- Saturday, May 21. As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, Michelle is working with students to organize a student walk from Monterey Redwoods to Wood Park. This will be followed by a service project and a picnic lunch.

Remarks from the President Introductions were made on behalf of our guest, Linda Stonier.

Board Member Briefing

Linda Stonier, of the National Park Service *Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program* will be FOSC's liaison to the NPS. She will help broaden our activities in the lower watershed by providing technical and planning assistance. The NPS has made a commitment to FOSC for this fiscal year. Linda spoke to the board, reminding us to "go slow to go fast." As a planner, it will be her job to help narrow down what it is we want to do, and to help us implement those goals. [This is the second time the NPS has partnered with FOSC, the first being to help us create a watershed awareness program in January of 1996.] The NPS, which celebrates its 100-year centennial in 2016, is

spearheading its Relevance in Connecting Parks to People theme. Our lower watershed project fits squarely into their intention.

A lengthy discussion ensued about how to get the buy-in of the community in the lower watershed. Linda emphasized that we have to be willing to spend time making connections with the people living in the community, finding out what their needs and desires are, perhaps connecting with them through the schools. She encouraged the use of storytelling as a powerful tool. Ideally we would have a part time person specifically for attention to the lower watershed. Linda encouraged us to take a step back to do strategic thinking about our mission there. She offered to be available to help facilitate that discussion.

This conversation segued into the State of the Watershed meeting on January 20th, 2016. Linda said she will talk at that event about NPS participation, and Christopher Richard will present a photo tour of the lower watershed.

FOSC's 20th Anniversary

The board conversed about the plan to join our anniversary gala with the Sausal Creek Restoration Project's ribbon-cutting celebration in Dimond Park. More ideas about how to highlight the celebration were tossed around.

Minutes and Commitments Review

Artifacts protocol: Kimra passed around xeroxed copies of watercolors of the Fruitvale, painted around 1860. She was contacted by the owner who plans to put them up for sale on eBay.

Sean is still reviewing the background check policy.

The board unanimously decided to vote by email on volunteer accident insurance.

The minutes from the October 14th meeting were unanimously approved.

Officer Election

The current office holders were unanimously voted in to serve as the 2016 Board of Directors Officers: Steve Ritchie, President; Dee Rosario, Vice President; Richelle Jacobs, Secretary; Rob Leidy, Treasurer.

Approval of Park Rangers Letter

Kimra asked the board whether FOSC should send a letter to city officials and the city council exhorting them to fund more park rangers. The board agreed unanimously.

Financial Report - Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart

Carl reported on FOSC's For the Future Fund. Kimra went over details of the project timeline cash flow report with the board. She informed the board that she is hoping to hire an education specialist for June, July and August for our partnership with Team Oakland.

Executive Director Responds to Questions on Staff Report

Kimra offered to field questions about the cash flow and staff report. She announced the news that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the two proposed wetlands at the nursery.

Round Robin or Reflections

Kimra invited a word or sentence from each person. Here are a few of those reflections:

Carl expressed appreciation for the discussion about the lower watershed. Helen felt we are lucky to have Linda Stonier to help us with the process. She cited Jingtown as a positive example of our working with a lower watershed community.

Dee expressed enthusiasm for the trail maintenance program he heads up. Although it's slow going, he is happy with what they've done so far, and encouraged people to have a look at the Benevides trailhead. Next month they'll be building a little crude stone wall and rebuilding the switchback near Old Cañon trail. "It's quality versus quantity. "

Adjournment