

**Friends of Sausal Creek  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014, 7-9 p.m.  
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church, 4101 Park Blvd., 3rd Floor,  
Oakland**

**Present:** Mark Rauzon, Helen McKinley, Richelle Jacobs, Richard Kauffman, Steve Ritchie, Carl Kohnert, Dee Rosario, Eleanor Dunn, Paul Frank, Kimra McAfee (Executive Director)

**Absent:** Barbara Goldenberg, Rob Leidy, Sean Welch, Bob Roat, Harry Schrauth

**Guests:** Barry Klezmer, Karen Paulsell

**Come to Order** 7:06

~ The minutes from the December 12, 2013 board meeting were approved with a minor edit.

**Special Reports**

~ On Rob Leidy's behalf, Kimra reported about rainbow trout and drought conditions.

**Committee Reports**

*Fundraising/Endowment*

~ Our end-of-year appeal brought in \$24,080. PayPal has been added as an additional donation avenue on our new website (soon to be launched).

~ Paul reminded the board that by using AmazonSmile.com, FOOSC can be the beneficiary of .5% of any given transaction.

~ Carl reported on bank account issues and *For the Future Fund*.

~ Richard reported that the Nursery Committee approved coupons for a one-gallon plant (\$10 value), to be sent to donors of \$100 or more per year, redeemable at the plant sale.

~ Richard reported on the Committee's recommendation of a \$15 youth membership, enabling young volunteers to receive a free tee-shirt.

~ Richard reminded us that the mid-year appeal is also approaching, and asked whether we should consider highlighting particular programs or climatic circumstances in the appeal letter.

### *Nursery Restoration*

~ Kimra, reporting on Barbara's behalf, said that last year's weevil infestation at the nursery has returned. Michelle and volunteers are repotting every single plant at the nursery. Every newly potted plant will be treated with nematodes. Karen suggested that we might be able to identify the species of weevil and get pest management advice by coordinating with the Department of Agriculture.

~ Eleanor may have a replacement refrigerator for our seeds. We are badly in need of one.

~ For the next fiscal year, Kimra will recommend that we budget 40 hours per week for the Restoration and Nursery Manager (Michelle). This is to allow the necessary additional staff time needed for 2015 seed processing and sowing, and other project needs.

~ The Nursery Committee recommended that FOOSC's native plant sale be part of Kathy Kramer's *Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour Plant Sale Extravaganza*. The board agreed. This sets Sunday, October 19, 2014, for the sale.

~ Kimra reported on another nursery break-in that occurred some time between Dec. 31 and Jan. 2. Eighty strawberry plants were taken, as well as a metal nursery cart. A police report was filed. Options for better securing of the gate were discussed, and Paul volunteered some of his time to get this accomplished.

~ Mark reminded the board that he still has a few bat boxes that he would like to install in the watershed.

## *Restoration*

~ Dee reported that this Committee has split into three sub-committees: hydrology, plant restoration, and pallid manzanitas. Dee will serve on all three, with Michelle overseeing. He gave information about some of the volunteers on these committees, and the upcoming tasks for each of them. Committee members will also be reviewing Prop 84 plans and helping Michelle develop a tentative planting plan.

~ In his professional life, Paul is working on a project design for in-creek log placement, which is one strategy employed in riparian restoration efforts for enhancing fish habitat. This work has sparked some ideas for him regarding what might be included in the Prop. 84 Urban Streams Restoration Program erosion control project. He will be exploring possibilities for this as the project unfolds.

~ Dee reported that the Restoration Committee explored a number of strategies for targeting invasive species before they take over. The committee discussed training for our stewards, seasonal and timely, in addition to hosting trainings of particular interest to homeowners.

~ Michelle will send an update on the pallid manzanita status in the next few weeks.

~ At the committee meeting, it was requested that Michelle and Kimra develop a timetable for work to be completed in 2014-2015 to evaluate staffing needs.

## **Executive Director's Report**

~ Board members have access to a grant-by-grant project management calendar in a Google document.

~ Kimra went over FYE13 990 and the balance sheet and Activities Report.

~ Health insurance payment procedures for the Restoration and Nursery Manager were discussed.

~ Kimra told Josh Sonnenfeld that FOSC could be added as a supporter of the SF Bay Restoration Authority.

~ FOSC Procedures for Supporting Initiatives: Reminder -- If we decide not to take immediate action on any given initiative, a commitment should be made at the board meeting to do so via email. If there is not enough time for the initiative to be presented fully at a board meeting, Kimra and the Steering Committee may take action on the board's behalf.

~ Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart: Kimra reported that cash flow is currently good, but noted that grant writing now is critical to support work later in the year. She enumerated some positive developments grant-wise, such as a \$4500 **Bill Graham Memorial Foundation** for youth for the summer. Kimra discussed other grant writing in the pipeline to fund operating support.

~ The **Prop 84** grant agreement between FOSC, the City, and DWR is now in place, and FOSC is currently drafting a scope of work that will direct the project.

~ New grants: **Five Star Grant/ Earth Team Partnership 2014-2016**. Ten to fifteen Oakland High School Environmental Science Academy interns will be adopting the Monterey Redwoods site. The student interns will be helping to develop the site plans, leading field trips and community workdays, volunteering at the nursery, and giving presentations at two FOSC member meetings.

~ **Lower Watershed Programming**: FOSC is hoping to get our lower watershed clean-up and storm water pollution education program funded. Kimra is working on an updated project description and budget for that work.

~ **Hillside Gardeners of Montclair**: FOSC is planning a proposal to fund a scholarship for our summer paid intern.

~ **Alameda County Fish & Game Commission**: Michelle will review the application and advise Kimra on a project that fits within our current work plan.

~ **Leimert Bridge Retrofit:** The design and permitting will take about two years, and is yet to begin.

~ The Earth Day Sign-Up Sheet was passed around.

~ New Website: We hope to launch with the March-April newsletter. Board members will receive a request to review it prior to launch.

~ March-April Newsletter – The deadline is February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Strategic Planning**

### *Impact Assessment and Strategic Plan Framework Discussion:*

The board reviewed FOOSC's mission statement, reaffirmed our impact goals, and discussed strategic levers for 2014. Strategic planning will continue at subsequent board meetings.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.