

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 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, Barbara Goldenberg, Eleanor Dunn, Steve Ritchie, Jeff Stephens, Bob Roat

Absent Paul Frank, Sean Welch, Carl Kohnert, Mark Rauzon, Rob Leidy, Tim Vendlinski

Staff Present Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Guests Chris Lutz, Volunteer; Kelcey Tern, Education and Stewardship Intern

Board Involvement

Nursery Workdays – Sat., Oct. 14 & 21, 1:30-4:30 p.m.; Fri., Oct. 20, 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.; Sat., Oct. 21, 9:00 a.m.- noon

Native Plant Sale – Sun, Oct. 22, all day (Native Plant Sale sign-up sheet circulated)

Día de los Muertos -- Sun, Oct. 29

Member Meeting – Pete Veilleux on *How to Beautifully Landscape Your Home with Natives* - Weds, Nov. 15, 7:00 pm

7:00 Remarks from President

Introductions between board members and guests were made.

Kelcey Tern, FOSC's new Education and Stewardship Intern, began on Sept. 29.

Steve reported that the State of the Estuary conference took place this week. He noted that many attendees were concerned about the aging out of workers in this field. The Sausal Creek Restoration Project at Dimond Park received an Outstanding Environmental Project Award at the conference!

7:08 Board Discussion: End-of-Year Appeal, and Giving Tuesday (Nov. 28)

The annual end-of-year letter-signing potluck will take place Wednesday, Nov 1, 6:00 p.m. at Ricky's house.

The board brainstormed ideas for the appeal letter which Jeff will write and Richard will edit.

Jeff discussed what "Giving Tuesday" is -- a national day for online donations taking place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Last year's yielded \$177,000,000 online across multiple organizations. He recommended it be highlighted in our letter, inviting potential donors to visit our website to donate.

7:27 **Board and Staff Retreat Discussion, continued from the August meeting**

The board sought agreement on a list categorizing our Proposed Ecosystem Portfolio. The terrains set forth included:

- riparian
- redwood forest
- oak woodland
- coastal scrub
- grassland
- chaparral
- wetland
- demonstration garden

Ideas as to how to incorporate these categories were discussed, such as creating different icons for each category for our website, and having site leaders collaborate within their category. These categories will help keep track of our goals and accomplishments in these plant communities.

The board reaffirmed the prior decision to limit plants to regional locals at the Bridgeview Pollinator Garden. Also, the board was polled as to a possible Eagle Scout project to install benches for the demonstration garden there. A discussion of the pros and cons of such benches ensued. The board decided it had no objections.

7:40 **Board Discussion: Watershed "Bioblitz" (Jeff Stephens)**

Jeff explained his idea for a FOSC bioblitz -- a one-day gathering where volunteers come together to inventory plants and animals in one designated area. He described in detail how it is done and the many advantages to FOSC of such an undertaking. The board responded enthusiastically. Barbara will work with Jeff to help frame whether such an event is feasible for FOSC. They will come back to the board with their recommendation about how and whether to proceed.

7:51 **Minutes and Commitments Review**

Kimra reported she still needs to draft the handout on ways to honor loved ones, as requested by the board at the August board meeting. She will get back to the board at a future meeting.

Stan Dodson reported to Kimra that he met with Supervisor Campbell-Washington, who has committed to procuring \$3500 for the trail map reprint. The precise source of that funding is still unclear.

Stan also followed up on the recommendations he will be making for names for some of the currently unnamed watershed trails:

- Camp Trail (north of Skyline, which passes the PAL Camp);
- Scout's Trail (connects Castle Park Trail to the Moon Gate staging area);
- Juanita's Trail (the little trail leading downhill from Sanborn to the stone bridge (Juanita was Joaquin Miller's wife);
- Towhee Trail (the squiggly trail in Dimond Canyon, descending from Old Cañon Trail to the creek)

Stan hopes to get on the November PRAC agenda to address the naming of these trails.

The following unnamed trail segments were discussed by Stan and Karen, but Kimra's understanding is no formal naming is moving forward at this time.

- Sinawik Steps (for the path next to the burned cabin site; there was some concern that this name wouldn't fit on the trail map);
- Dunn Trail (for the Bridgeview switchbacks, though there is already a Dunn Trail in Joaquin Miller Park).

Minutes from the August board meeting were unanimously approved.

8:00 **Endowment Committee Report**

Jeff reported the *For the Future* fund has \$109,512 in Vanguard. He reviewed original expectations for the use of fund monies and explained that it is percentages, not specific dollar amounts, that can be accessed for distributions. FOSC has benefited from the appreciation of a rising market this year. He said the Endowment Committee is considering setting an annual fundraising goal and a longer term goal as our next targets for this fund. At a future meeting Carl will report the committee's recommendation to the board.

The committee is exploring investing in a sustainable fund for a portion or all of our equity investments. Vanguard has a Social Index Fund which invests in companies focusing on criteria relating to environment, human rights, health and safety, labor standards and diversity. The committee is also researching other funds that have similar investment objectives so that it can make an informed recommendation to the board as to which one to choose.

The committee continues to discuss marketing materials and opportunities for reaching out to our "friends" regarding the FTF. The plan is to begin monthly development meetings with potential friends to help us grow our FTF fund towards future goals. The board was asked to consider who potential people might be for the committee to contact regarding development opportunities.

Jeff is in the process of being added as a signator on our Capital One account as an authorized user in addition to Carl. Kimra had the board clarify its intention whether Jeff also be added to FOSC's Vanguard account. The board felt fine about Jeff being a signatory on both.

Kimra committed to sending reminder emails to board members as to their specific annual FTF monetary commitments.

Barbara inquired as to whether we have a plan for the Fund should FOSC dissolve, and emphasized the importance of such a plan. Kimra will ask Sean to explain how the resolutions address this matter as well as limitations on when distributions can be requested during our budget cycle.

8:07 **Financial Report**

Kimra reviewed the Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart with the board and fielded questions about the upcoming native plant sale.

8:15 **Executive Director Responds to Questions on Staff Report**

Kimra reported that Amanda Ma is still interested in the student board member position.

FOSC has a new contract to establish six pallid manzanitas. FOSC will be contracting with Lech Naumovich of Golden Hour Restoration Institute for assistance with the 5-year project.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.