

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 14, 2019, 7-9 p.m.
Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church
4101 Park Blvd., Room 35 on 3rd 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, Richard Kauffman, Beth Keer, Steve Ritchie, Mark Rauzon (Board Member Emeritus), Tim Vendlinski, Paul Frank

Absent Sean Welch, Erin Patch, Jeff Stephens, Carl Kohnert, Rob Leidy, Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus)

Staff Present Anna Marie Schmidt, Executive Director; Becca Sanchez, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Board Involvement

Glenview Ice Cream Social/Community Fair– September 15, afternoon

Community Talk (Member Meeting)– September 18, 7:00 p.m.

Creek to Bay Day– September 21, morning

Rose Foundation Film Festival– September 26, TBD

12th Annual Oaktobefest– October 5 and 6, all day

Plant Sale– October 20, all day

Planting Workdays– 2nd and 4th Saturdays

**Introductions and Remarks from Vice President,
Eleanor Dunn**

Our new Education and Outreach Coordinator, Rebecca "Becca" Sanchez, was welcomed and introduced to the board. She has been on the job for a month, and gave an update on what she's been doing.

Board Member Briefing and Discussion **Staff Transitions and BOD Candidate Recruitment**

This summer, Jay is working part time at Kings Canyon/Sequoia National Park. While there, he will try to be available to FOSC remotely whenever possible, returning to the Bay Area every two weeks to continue his work for us on a part time basis. He will return full time in October. For Creek to Bay Day, he will set up the tools in advance. We hope Moises can be present for the event. Anna Marie encouraged board members to be available to help at that event. Becca will handle group communications on site and work in the lower watershed that day.

On the subject of recruiting younger FOSC activists: Becca suggested we put the word out about FOSC through UCB contacts, farmers' markets, social media, schools, and campus fairs. She will get in touch with the *Berkeley Women's Professional Network*, and through them will see about the possibility of creating an organization on the Berkeley campus which might act specifically as a conduit to FOSC. One Cal student has expressed an interest in starting a FOSC club. Becca will follow up.

Richard brought up our goal of filling the student position on the board. We brainstormed about whom we might contact -- professors, classes, Google Dads -- towards that end. Tim and Paul said they would get in touch with a couple of professors they knew. Anna Marie said Shannon Louie, who is writing a water quality article for us, might be a good contact. As to board recruitment, Paul will reach out to one person he thinks would be an excellent board member, to gauge her interest. Anna Marie passed around a survey for everyone to fill out, geared towards streamlining the matrix for board members.

Fundraising **Update on Mid-Year Appeal 2019: Richard Kauffman**

Richard went over some figures from the Mid-Year Appeal. There was more than a 60% increase in donations received from individual non-board donors relative to 2018. Average donations increased by approximately 19%. In all, there were 34 new donors.

The board responded enthusiastically to Jeff's idea for the End-of-Year Appeal: a multi-faceted media blitz with people telling their story of what FOSC means to them, and sharing their experiences. Ideas about how to accomplish this and whom to call upon were shared. The board also reflected on how well the six-pronged email promo for Mid-Year Appeal had played out, making suggestions for a few improvements. Six emails were deemed too many,

- Plant Sale: Anna Marie encouraged board members to find business sponsors for the plant sale, hopefully expanding last year's number. She detailed how the sale will be advertised, and the board considered a few additional ideas.

- Grants Update: The board reviewed recent decisions, submissions, and current grants on the horizon.

Financial Report

- Anna Marie gave an update on Project Timelines and Cash Flow.

Updates on FOSC Projects

- Rainbow Trout Conservation and Management Plan: Rob will give a report to the board at the next meeting.

- FOSC Eagle Scout Project Process: Tim Vendlinski. Tim distributed a hard copy report outlining his observations and recommendations for any future projects with the Eagle Scouts. He cautioned that collaboration with them must include a knowledgeable, project-qualified adult liaison between FOSC and the scout(s) for every level of the project. Since this was not in place for this project, Tim found himself called upon every step of the way for considerably more input and involvement than he had planned for or imagined. Also, someone from FOSC must be present to oversee the quality of work at its implementation and going forward. The board considered additional ideas for how any future projects with the Scouts might be improved. Anna Maria mentioned that the scout currently working on the five trail map boxes is doing a very good job. She felt that limiting Eagle Scout projects is necessary, and noted that FOSC has set some some new ground rules. She asked Tim about his original idea to develop a FOSC project list that would be approved by PRAC and streamline the initial approval hurdle.

Minutes and Commitments Review

- Steve motioned for adoption of the June minutes. Tim seconded it, and the motion was unanimously carried.

- Commitments: Anna Marie asked that the board put forth its best efforts to step up for Oaktoberfest, Creek to Bay Day, and the Plant Sale. She reported that she had volunteered FOSC person-power to the Rose Foundation for its film festival. We have not heard back from Tim Little.

Andrew Alden will do a talk on the geology of the Sausal Creek watershed for the September community meeting.

Anna Marie delivered the unfortunate news that Oakland Public Works unwittingly destroyed the demonstration garden and its irrigation system at the nursery. The City has admitted responsibility. The destruction had been carried out by part time employees and seasonal workers. This garden was part of a \$10,000 EBMUD grant and had grown into a mature ten-year-old garden. Brian Carthan and Kevin Charles from the City have promised to remedy this. Deirdre Martin, of Environmental Stewardship, said that many departments in the City don't understand what we do. She suggested we "get in there, talk to the City about our work and restoration principles and natives in the watershed." Tim suggested we create an ongoing training for them, and Richard reminded everyone that it is imperative that we always be informed as to when the City of Oakland intends to be working at our site. Eleanor suggested we insist on \$20,000 from the City to replace what they have destroyed, and (as per Richard) that reimbursement for staff time and volunteer time be included as well. Anna Marie reported some of the volunteers were so demoralized they weren't sure they would be returning.

Anna Marie also informed the board that goat grazing is planned soon for watershed areas. Additionally, she reported that as of today the Dimond Park encampment finally pulled up stakes and left the park.

Executive Director Responds to Questions on the Staff Report

Tim inquired about the Urban Forest and 700 Trees Initiative, and whether there might be opportunities for our engagement. He was enthusiastic about the possibility of finding barren places overlapping the historic water course of the creek and creating a ribbon of green in the lower watershed. Anna Marie reminded everyone that we are looking for strong community involvement with such possible projects. She gave the Project Manager, Gordon Matassa, our lower watershed contacts as he and his crew get started on assessing tree planting.

She reported that Erin Patch will be tendering her resignation from the board. Erin will continue to advise FOSC, and will finance our table at Dia De Los Muertos this year. Anna Marie asked her for help recruiting a lower watershed community member for the board.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Next board meeting: October 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m. (Steve will be unable to attend.)