

**Friends of Sausal Creek  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 5:00 p.m.  
via Zoom**

*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, Tim Vendlinski, Barry Stenger, Rob Leidy, Beth Keer, Eleanor Dunn

**Absent** Mark Rauzon (Board Member Emeritus), Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus), Aneeshi Desai (Student Board Member), Steve Ritchie, Sean Welch

**Staff Present** Anna Marie Schmidt, E.D.; Amaya Griego, Education and Outreach Manager; Kate Berlin, Communications and Operations Manager; Ella Matsuda, Restoration and Nursery Manager

**Guests** John Roberts and Mike Udkow of the Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay (BTCEB), Friends of Joaquin Miller Park (FOJMP), and the Enduro Race; Elizabeth "Betsy" Littell of the Oakland Trails Patrol; and Peter Van Der Naillen, nursery volunteer.

**Board Involvement**

**Rainbow Trout Walk with Rob Leidy** – Saturday, August 20, 10:00-12:00. Meet at the Scout Hut.

**Staff/Board Walking Retreat** - Sunday, August 21, 10:00 - 2:00. Meet at the Ranger Station in Joaquin Miller Park.

**Remarks from the President, Beth Keer**

Beth welcomed each guest and asked them to introduce themselves. Peter Van Der Naillen has been volunteering at the nursery on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In the past he's done water quality monitoring with FOSC. Sneezeweed is his favorite plant. Mike Udkow is a member of FOJMP and BTCEB. Amaya Griego, our newest employee, is FOSC's Education and Outreach Manager. She is excited about this new school year. John Roberts of the Enduro Race and a member of the BTCEB, is also part of FOJMP. Elizabeth Littell, who volunteers with Stan Dodson on trail patrol, wanted to hear about the impact of the Enduro Race.

**Board Member Briefing & Discussion**

**Enduro Race - Resolution on a Master Plan for Joaquin Miller Park**

Mike Udkow expressed his opinion that everyone conducted themselves well at the Enduro Race. He reported that many bikers who weren't a part of the event were unhappy with the closing of some of the trails. But, he went on to say, there were no accidents, the atmosphere was convivial, and in his opinion the Race appeared to have caused no major additional damage to the trails. He and John Roberts (both members of the Oakland Bike Patrol and FOJMP) did a perimeter ride around the area after the event.

Tim Vendlinski made a statement that the Enduro Race should not have happened, given the degradation of the park. He countered that this event was terribly mishandled -- that the BTCEB were not transparent about the event and treated partners poorly. For example, Jerrot King, BTCEB president and manager of Mike's Bikes, never returned any of his calls or messages. Tim said that they gamed the permitting system, and their process was neither open nor transparent. Mike noted that King was no longer a part of the BTCEB.

### Presentation of Staff Work Plans, Staff

Kate Berlin presented staff's strategies for 2022 & 2023, grouped as follows:

- Goals (overarching themes)
- Program Priorities (grow/maintain/decline recommendations; what is working, what we're excited about)
- Funding Sources (assessment of current sources and new/upcoming ideas)
- Next Gen Recruitment and Retention (increase diverse representation across board, staff, volunteer pool; engagement of the next generation of stewards and site leaders)
- Connection (with the FOSC board, the City of Oakland, and other organizations/allies);
- Feedback and Input from the Board

A few of the many points of her presentation included increasing our visibility-- there should be clear signage with more information about what we do; improving outreach to local colleges; giving more community talks and events that will appeal to young adults and families with young kids. She urged the board to provide feedback to her or Anna Marie. Barry wondered if this is a strategic plan (if so, it should be approved by the board) and where the board assumes responsibility for the direction of the organization. Anna Marie responded that this is neither a strategic plan nor a change of business, but a staff work plan -- that the goal is for the board to come to it with support, questions, and/or concerns. She said this work plan offers a way to dialogue with staff. Beth expressed appreciation for the specificity of these work plans. She thought this would be a good topic for our retreat.

Board/Staff Retreat At 10:00 Sunday morning, August 21, meet at the Ranger Station near the nursery. We will then make our way up to Fern Ravine where the presentations will begin.

Plant Sale and 25th+1 Celebration Both sale and celebration are scheduled for October 30. All unsold plants will then be available for sale on an online platform. A pick-up day for those sales will be designated. Beth said she will be happy to give Ella and Kate a Square tutorial, especially since we have used Square to keep track of plant sale inventory in the past.

OSCAR (Open Space Conservation And Recreation) Tim plans to draft a board resolution to present to the City asking for a master plan for Joaquin Miller Park, as required by OSCAR. Its intention will be to conserve the forest floor of JMP, list its rare species, and perform various studies on the degradation of the park. Beth reminded the board that it is incumbent on the City to develop a JMP master plan, which should balance the needs of all the park users and the preservation of its natural resources.

FlowWest Feasibility Study, Paul Frank The feasibility study will be completed next week. The board chose September 12 for Paul's presentation.

Anna Marie gave staff the opportunity to exit the meeting at this point.

### **Mid-Year Appeal, Barry Stenger**

Barry reported that this year's Mid-Year Appeal proved less successful than in the past. We raised \$11,000, \$5000 of which was donated specifically to the Endowment Fund.

### **For the Future and Endowment Funds' Investment Policy, Barry Stenger**

Laying the groundwork for working with an outside portfolio manager, Barry has been conferring with others to develop an investment policy. The copy Anna Marie sent to the board lacked

the Addendum. Barry moved that we approve the proposed investment policy sent to the board, and Beth moved we approve the Investment Policy and Addendum. Tim noted that it wasn't dated and was missing its author. Barry said he will add those once it's approved. Beth again moved we approve the Investment Policy and its Addendum. The motion was unanimously carried.

Barry reported that the committee is considering four different finance firms, all of which will be interviewed. Also, the committee is in need of another member, and Steve has not been available.

### **Financial Report, Miscellaneous Updates, and Specific Needs, Anna Marie Schmidt**

Anna Marie reviewed the Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart with the board, as well as grant applications in progress and those on the horizon.

She announced with delight that FOSC has secured a six-year contract with Alameda County Flood Control District for an annual grant of \$30,000.

Anna Marie informed the board that the trail map costs came approximately to \$5600, and that Friends of Joaquin Miller Park will be paying half. FOSC anticipates a late August printing.

### **Minutes**

Barry moved to approve the June minutes, and Rob seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Questions on Staff Report & Staffing Updates, Anna Marie Schmidt**

Beth gave a shout-out to Rob for his stewardship of fencing by the pallid colony near the CSSC. He said it turned out to be extremely difficult to dig post holes given the bedrock.

As a student in Merritt College's Natural History and Sustainability Program, Kate Berlin is required to complete an internship. Anna Marie worked with her to develop a position, which was submitted as a MOU to the Natural History and Sustainability Internship Manager. This will allow Kate to use her job with FOSC to meet her internship requirement. As a result, FOSC is now on the Merritt NHS program's Advisory Board along with other organizations such as the National Parks Service, The Watershed Project, EBRPD, and Save the Bay.

Tim reported briefly about the recent fish kill from a construction site dumping of paint, plaster and other building materials into the creek. This incident was reported to Watershed and Stormwater Management. Rob said he would follow up with the City inspector.

The Board decided to gift 25th Anniversary t-shirts to any new staff member who wanted one.

Tim praised the Staff Report. He said it made him very proud of what FOSC and staff are doing.

Eleanor thanked the visitors for their attendance at tonight's meeting. She said it means a lot that others care about what's going on here.

Barry brought up the idea that the sound of the acronym FOSC is extremely unpleasant. "It sounds like we're clearing our throat, or are a government agency." He hoped that we might have a conversation about alternatives some time soon.

**Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m., followed by a Closed Session.

**Next board meeting:** October 12, 2022, location TBA.