

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 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, Jeff Stephens, Richard Kauffman, Paul Frank, Carl Kohnert, Beth Keer, Steve Ritchie, Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus)

Absent Sean Welch, Erin Patch, Rob Leidy, Tim Vendlinski, Mark Rauzon

Staff Present Anna Marie Schmidt, Executive Director

Board Involvement

Dimond Park Project: Planting Maintenance Needs -
Thursday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. (Richard, Tim, Michael Thilgen, and City staff), Dimond Park

**Earth Day - Saturday, April 20, 8:45 - 12:00, Scout Hut
Celebration, Sausal Creek Erosion Control Restoration
Project in Dimond Canyon - Saturday, May 11, 9:30 -
10:30, Drain Site 3**

Restoration Committee Meeting - Location TBD

**Planting Workdays - 2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.,
Sites TBD**

Introductions and Remarks from President, Jeff Stephens

Jeff announced that tonight's themes will be fundraising, finance & budget, and project progress.

Fundraising

- **Update on Mid-Year Appeal 2019, Jeff and Richard**
Jeff reported that "Solstice Challenge" will be the title for the Mid-Year Appeal. He, Richard, and Anna Marie have set a goal of \$20,000, to be solicited primarily through emails to our list of about 3500 people. The plan is to be project specific, with ads focusing on trout, birds, pallids,

interns and students, and the nursery. May Woo has once again generously offered graphic design help. Richard has done the lion's share of the leg work. Our targeted time frame will be early May through the Solstice (June 21). The plan is to send five pictorial topic-specific ads over five weeks -- each a week apart -- with the last one sent just before the Solstice. Nicki will post on Facebook and Instagram. Jeff said they are still considering sending a printed card as well toward the end of May. A cross reference will be done to determine who has/hasn't donated. This will inform who gets a postcard.

- Grants Update

Anna Marie informed the board about which grants have been received, and which ones we're seeking. Additionally, she reported that the City's original request for us temporarily to store 3500 of their plants at the nursery is going through a bidding process. The City has landed on a purchase order as the financial mechanism and sent it out to three bidders. We've put in a \$9500 bid.

Grant consultant Kerry Beuthin is currently working on applying for three specific grants. If we succeed in getting them, they will fund environmental education.

Financial Report, Anna Marie

- Project Timeline and Cash Flow

Anna Marie went over the Project Timeline and Cash Flow and provided an update on FOSC's operating reserve. Jeff said we need to think about a transfer/distribution from the *For The Future* fund for the FYE20 budget. Carl indicated he will discuss this need at the spring Endowment Committee meeting.

Budget Planning, Anna Marie

- The board considered the Draft Budget FYE20. We need \$113,000 in grants this year. The Steering Committee reported it would like to see what we have in hand as of July 1. Ideas such as a Google Dads work day and inviting program officers of our Grantors to various events were tossed around. Ricky brought up a desire to create more robust salaries for staff, stating some reasons why she believes this would be advantageous to FOSC. This prompted a lengthy discussion, with board members voicing pros, cons, and a number of creative ways to enhance staff satisfaction. Jeff suggested we ask them in their reviews what their goals are for the year to come, and then we make a concentrated effort to help each to accomplish those goals. He said

Nicki has requested specific things to make her job easier and wondered where that list is. Anna Marie proposed having Nicki, Jay, and Moises talk to us at the June board meeting about their epiphanies, their hopes for certain project outcomes, and for sustaining job satisfaction. Richard endorsed the idea that anyway it would be good for them to come to a board meeting once or twice a year.

- Anna Marie reported that she, Nicki, and Moises conducted Spanish language listening sessions (focus groups) last week. Jeff said he and Nicki would like to collaborate with *Running for a Better Oakland* possibly to coordinate a run in the Lower Watershed.

Board Member Updates/Discussion

- Staff Benefits: A proposal for five floating paid holidays was discussed. While the board response was positive, approval will be delayed until Sean can look over the details.

- River Network Agenda: Jeff will sign the letter in support of the River Network Agenda.

- Leimert Bridge Retrofit: Jay and Bob Roat attended a community meeting about this retrofit. Bob has helped FOSC draft a letter to the City specifying concerns about mitigating factors that might affect the trout pond under the bridge, trails, and slope vegetation. This letter would be finalized (including cc'ing Kristin Hathaway, Mike Perlmutter, and the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission) and signed by Anna Marie and Jeff.

- Vegetation Management: Three FOSC teams were invited to meet at three sites (Beaconsfield, Joaquin Miller Park, and Dimond Park/Canyon) with the City of Oakland staff and Horizon consultants to discuss concerns about the upcoming Vegetation Management Plan. Two additional sites (Montclair Railroad Trail and Shepherd Canyon) will be visited as well. Richard reported the meeting at Beaconsfield went extremely well.

- Board members would very much like to see the two board vacancies filled by people from the lower watershed.

- We are still looking for recruits to assist with water quality monitoring.

Minutes and Commitments Review

- The Erosion Control Project ceremony on May 11 will replace the May member meeting/community talk. Nicki hopes to come up with a new name for this monthly event.

- There will be a gathering to celebrate the near-completion of the Erosion Control Restoration Project in Dimond Canyon on Saturday, May 11, 9:30 - 10:30. Carl will staff a table, Paul will sing FOSC's praises, and Tim will talk about trout. Board members were encouraged to attend. Jeff volunteered to take photos at this event and on Earth Day.

- A sign-up sheet was recirculated for board members to volunteer on Earth Day, the morning of April 20. Councilmember Sheng Thao plans to work at Dimond Park that day and recruited the painters' union to join her. *Brothers on the Rise* and other youth organizations are also expected to participate.

- Nicki is now piloting the publication of our monthly newsletter in Spanish.

- Minutes from the February 13th board meeting were approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

