

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 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: Mark Rauzon, Richelle Jacobs, Richard Kauffman, Harry Schrauth, Steve Ritchie, Carl Kohnert, Bob Roat, Rob Leidy, Barbara Goldenberg, Helen McKinley, Sean Welch, Eleanor Dunn

Absent: Paul Frank

Staff Present: Kimra McAfee, Executive Director

Guests: David Bolaños, Percy Honnibal, Daniella Cazares, Kathleen Harris, Betsy Moses, Karen Paulsell, Erin Todd

Board Involvement

Master Calendar 2017 Naturalist fungi talk, Weds, March 8, Dimond Rec Center

Litter March – Sat., March 18, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. starting at Josie de la Cruz Park

Introductions Guests and board members introduced themselves.

Kimra passed around the sign-up sheet for board meeting refreshments throughout the year. She also passed around a card and gift envelope for Rebecca Armstrong, Environmental Education Intern, who is leaving FOSC to have a baby.

Remarks from President Steve emphasized that the operational word is: *change*.

Intern Briefing and Board Discussion Daniella Cazares, FOSC Water Resources Intern and masters student in geography, spoke to the board about citizen science hydrology and water quality monitoring in the creek. She gave details about methods of monitoring, and asked the board to prioritize its monitoring goals. Rob volunteered to give this issue his scrutiny.

Board Discussion Bridgeview Pollinator Garden Species Selection
Guests weighed in about what sorts of species should be cultivated in this garden. The following four gradations were the springboard for the conversation that then took place:

- 1) Use local watershed natives, with preference to those already known to be native to Dimond Canyon.
- 2) Use natives from other Oakland parks or from EBRPD parks in the Berkeley and Oakland hills, but none that are likely to become invasive or compete with existing natives along the trail.
- 3) Use plants from the central coast region as defined in the Jepson manual, but none that is likely to become invasive or compete with existing natives along the trail.
- 4) Use other non-invasive California natives.

There was debate about favoring one sort of species (e.g. insects vs. tree frogs) over another. Betsy Moses, who does much of the hands-on planting there, fielded questions such as whether the garden existed for the bees themselves, or for the neighborhood ("both"), and informed that native blackberries have been planted to help protect fox habitat even as other blackberry bushes have been eliminated.

Kimra read the draft mission statement for the garden and noted that there is no decision-making entity in place: *To create and maintain a garden that supports a variety of native pollinators in the extended blooming season; to provide an educational resource for local students and the community.*

Issues about volunteer coordination, drought tolerance, shrubs vs. perennials, plant survival, and the planting of annuals were also addressed.

Steve suggested the board hold its annual retreat at the garden so that board members could get a better idea of the space, its history and all the work volunteers have put into developing the pollinator garden.

Board Discussion, continued Staffing Needs

Kimra announced that Michelle's last day as Restoration and Nursery Manager will be March 18. The board then discussed recruitment for her replacement, and considered the differing skills needed for nursery management and for youth education.

Minutes and Commitments Review

Minutes from the December 14th, 2016 board meeting were unanimously approved with two edits.

Kimra read the finalized guidelines about posting to the FOSC listserv.

Endowment Committee Report

Carl jubilantly announced that after six years, FOSC's *For the Future Fund* has achieved its \$100,000 goal. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial stability and flexibility for FOSC to ensure its existence through the years.

Financial Report

Kimra went over the Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart with the board, and gave updates on the Operating Reserve and outcome of the End-of-Year Appeal.

Twenty hours of time provided by Lech Naumovich of Golden Hour Institute have been granted to FOSC in support of the Chabot pallid manzanita project.

Executive Director Responds to Questions on Staff Report

Kimra was asked how the Groundwork USA project would work. She explained that we have a grant from the Rose Foundation in the coming year for working toward implementation of one or two *Walkable Watershed Concept Plan* pilot projects. Time spent on the Groundwork USA proposal therefore falls under this grant as a means of working toward that goal. She indicated, however, that her own time would be extremely limited if FOSC were to take this on. She is hoping other staff will take over some of the adjunctive responsibilities, such as the newsletter.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.