

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Park Blvd Presbyterian Church**

Friends of Sausal Creek works to conserve, restore, and enhance the watershed by educating future generations, involving the community in environmental stewardship, and collaborating with agencies and nonprofits to support Oakland's diverse ecosystems and promote a climate-resilient future.

Present Richelle Jacobs, Eleanor Dunn, Russ Huddleston, Beth Keer, Barry Stenger, Rob Leidy, Sean Welch, Tim Vendlinski, Mark Rauzon (Board Member Emeritus), Kristy Brady, Maria Katticaran, Delaney Welch (Student Board Member).

Absent Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus), Steve Ritchie.

Staff Present Lisa Giordano, Executive Director.

Guests Shaon Bhattacharya (prospective Student Board Member); Somen Bhattacharya, (father of Shaon); Amos White, (*100K Trees for Humanity*, attending remotely).

Board Involvement

- Bay Nature community talk, Oct. 12.
- Water Walking community talk, Nov. 4.
- Plant sale, Oct. 29.

Remarks from the President, Beth Keer

- Beth welcomed our guests and acknowledged that this meeting was taking place on unceded Huichin Ohlone territory.

Prospective New Student Board Member - Introductions and Welcome

- Shaon Bhattacharya, prospective Student Board Member from James Logan High School in Union City, and his father, Somen Bhattacharya, introduced themselves.

Board Member Briefing & Discussion

- Wood Park, Barry Place, and Palo Seco restoration and resilience planning projects were discussed.

- We were awarded the EPA San Francisco Water Quality Improvement Fund grant -- \$200,693 for 2024!
- We are exploring options for planning native revegetation and water quality monitoring projects, and a second daylighting feasibility assessment.
- At Barry Place, restoration, repair of damaged steps, eucalyptus removal and a parklet design were discussed.
- We have submitted a pre-application for a \$700,000 grant to plan for the daylighting of Fern Ravine and Palo Seco Creeks in Joaquin Miller Park. We will partner with the Environmental Science Associates on this planning project. Lisa will meet with the Conservation Board on Friday to check in about an invitation to submit a full proposal.
- Tim is waiting to hear from the City Council about whether they will advocate for the Joaquin Miller Park Master Plan and Resource Conservation Areas (RCA). There are funds from State Parks we could apply for which could designate resource conservation areas in Joaquin Miller Park.
- We would like to organize more appreciation events for our donors and volunteers.
- We will be increasing our plant sale prices.
- We have submitted a CNRA Youth Community Access grant and are awaiting a response. This would be a year-long youth workforce training program.
- Russ reported on planning for the 2024 Pallid Summit, co-sponsored with Tilden Botanical Gardens.

Financial Report, Lisa Giordano

- Lisa went over the Project Timeline and Cash Flow Chart with the Board. She also reported on grant applications in progress and on the horizon.
- She reviewed the FYE 2024 Budget amendments.

Project Proposal Presentation: Amos White (100K Trees for Humanity)

- The mission of *100K Trees for Humanity* is to "plant the planet" by 2030 to draw down carbon from the atmosphere. He is seeking to partner with FOSC in the hopes of sharing our nursery space to help cultivate trees to be planted in the Oakland flatlands. Because the climate has shifted, their focus is not predominantly to raise native species, but to diversify.
- Beth said we would need our Nursery Manager in on this conversation. Sean indicated that we would need to review our agreement with the City, who owns the nursery land. Several Board members were averse to the cultivation of non-native trees. The Board said it would give his request consideration and get back to him.

Fundraising Updates, Barry Stenger

- The Rainmakers will be meeting soon to plan our End-of-Year Appeal. They want to investigate the possibility of finding matching grants.
- The allowable use of Endowment funds was discussed. The balance in these funds has dropped to \$181,000 because the stock market is down.
- We very much need expertise in donor analytics. Barry is of the mind that Lisa is spending too much time recording and acknowledging donations. He urged the Board seriously to consider hiring a Development Associate.
- The three chief elements that comprise our financial future are donations, grants, and contracts. There is a steady revenue stream from individual donors, but grants and contracts fluctuate considerably over the years. As to outlay, the constant is our staff salaries. He is pleased with Lisa's work on grants and contracts, but emphasized that we need our income lines to be more predictable.
- While staffing our table at Oaktobefest, Barry noted that people enthusiastically signed up to hear from us. These aren't current donors. He urged that we find a way to reach out to them.

Minutes

- Tim moved to approve the minutes of August 9, 2023. Sean seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

Staff Report Comments & Questions

- Tim expressed particular appreciation for our outreach to youth.
- Kristy wondered whether we might snapshot some excerpts for the newsletter.
- Beth thanked everyone for their participation in FOSC's momentum; Tim expressed appreciation for our new Board members, and for Delaney and her dad fixing the fence at the El Centro trailhead.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m., followed by a closed session.

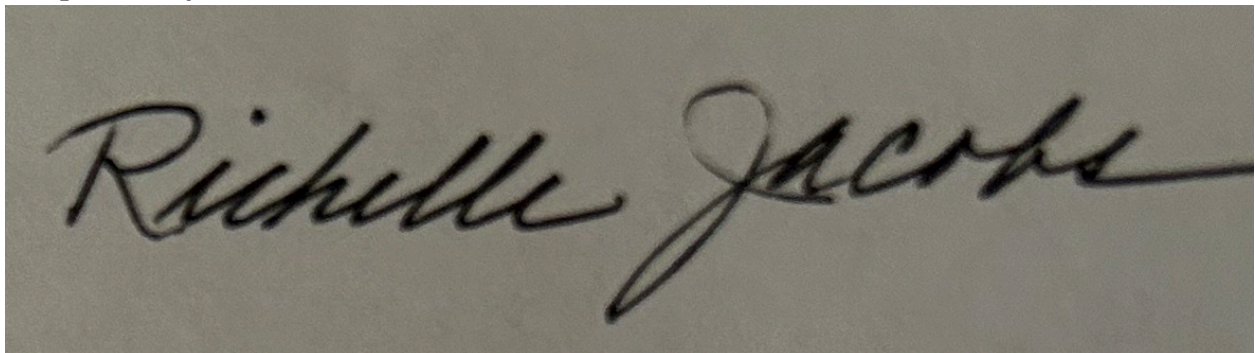
Next board meeting

- December 13, 2023, 7:00 p.m., in the Iona Room at Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church.

Closed Session:

- Vote on new Student Board of Directors members, and discussion of staff salaries.

Respectfully submitted December 13, 2023

A photograph of a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Richelle Jacobs" in a cursive script. The first name "Richelle" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, while "Jacobs" is written in a smaller, more compact hand. The signature is centered horizontally and occupies most of the width of the image.