

**Friends of Sausal Creek
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Park Blvd Presbyterian Church**

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, Russ Huddleston, Hattie Bradshaw (Student Board Member), Amba Beattie (Student Board Member), Rob Leidy, Sean Welch, Tim Vendlinski (via Zoom), Mark Rauzon (Board Member Emeritus).

Absent Harry Schrauth (Board Member Emeritus), Steve Ritchie, Barry Stenger, Beth Keer.

Staff Present Lisa Giordano, Executive Director, and Ashley Cisneros (Education and Outreach Coordinator).

Guests Kristy Brady, FOSC volunteer; Maria Katticaran, water advocate & FOSC volunteer; Gary McCormick, *Oakland Trails*; Tea Parker- Essig, FOSC volunteer; Delaney Welch, Head Royce junior; John Stirton, FOSC trails volunteer; Amos White, *100K Trees for Humanity*.

Board Involvement

- Oaktoberfest, 9/30 & 10/1. Board help is requested for this 2-day event.
- Committees meeting quarterly. New members sought for the Endowment and Lower Watershed committees.

Remarks from the Treasurer, Rob Leidy

- Rob acknowledged that this meeting was taking place on indigenous Ohlone land. He invited board members briefly to introduce themselves to our guests.

Board Member Briefing & Discussion

- Palo Seco and Fern Ravine are in the planning stages for daylighting. Wood Park is in the planning stage for native revegetation and a second daylighting feasibility assessment. We

hope to hear from the State in 30-45 days for Palo Seco and from the EPA in two weeks.

- Joaquin Miller Park Master Plan and Resource Conservation Areas (RCAs) Resolutions: Tim reported the Resolutions are currently stalled and that PRAC is committed only to fencing. We are seeking to protect the sub-basin for Fern Ravine -- a total of 70 acres -- which protects redwood forest and supplies essential source water for Sausal Creek. We're briefing City Council in the hopes they will support these efforts.
- Website/design: Lisa briefly showed the Board the updated website, still in progress. The plan is to go live with the new website on 8/23. She asked whether anyone was interested in helping to reword the mission statement. The intention also is to make the website bilingual -- English and Spanish.
- Bylaw edits: Sean said it was best to keep the bylaws more general than specific. He said he would be happy to help with the crafting of any changes.
- EOC: Welcome to our new Education and Outreach Coordinator/Manager, Ashley Cisneros. Ashley is a native Oaklander with several years' experience in environmental education and trail work. She is currently completing her B.S. in wildlife, fish, and conservation biology from U.C. Davis.
- Pallid Summit: Russ is putting together a "pallid summit". The pallids are local, in little pockets. He is in need of a Regional Park contact. Michelle Hammond? Dee Rosario? (Russ reported also that the City destroyed some pallids in Big Trees. Ella had requested the City contact her before working there, but they didn't.) Tim suggested the summit take place at the Tilden Botanical Garden. Ricky offered to furnish Dee Rosario's contact information to Russ.
- Plant sale: Lisa reported that the nursery has made extraordinary recovery from the vandalism, such that we're close to where we need to be for the plant sale (currently 5830 plants, excluding seed trays). The question arose as to whether we should increase

plant prices this year. The Board unanimously decided yes. The sale will take place on Sunday, October 29.

- Projector and iPad: Lisa would like FOSC to make these purchases, and the Board gave her permission. Tim offered his used iPad to Lisa.

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.

Fundraising Updates, Lisa Giordano

- Mid-Year Appeal 2023: Over \$14,000 was brought in. Lisa wants to focus on higher dollar donations. She is hoping to bring the Education and Outreach Coordinator position into full time. Maria will work with Lisa on a Creek Access grant.
- Financial future & fundraising: Lisa hopes for a matching donor for the end-of-year appeal. She and Barry are looking at donor analytics.

Minutes & Commitments Review

- Eleanor moved, and Rob seconded, that the June minutes be approved. This was passed unanimously.
- This was Amba Beattie and Hattie Bradshaw's last meeting, as their Student Board Member tenure is over. Both attested to enjoying the experience, and Hattie said she was grateful to see how organizations like this function. The Board thanked the two of them for their participation, reminding them that they are our future leaders. They said they are talking to Kate about doing some work at their school.

Prospective new Board members: Delaney Welch, Maria Katticaran, and Kristy Brady. Introductions of them and our guests:

- Delaney Welch, a prospective Student Board Member, is a junior at Bishop O'Dowd High School. She grew up going to Dimond Park. In fifth grade, for her birthday party, she and friends worked on creek restoration, and she has volunteered at our plant

sales. She hopes for a future career in the environmental justice field.

- Maria Katticaran, an architect originally from the 44 Rivers area in Kerala, India, immigrated to Los Angeles, moving to the Bay Area in 2020. She is passionate about the value of water as a resource for communities. In particular, she is interested in education and outreach, creek access in the lower watershed, and in restoring Oakland's Bay waterfronts.
- Kristy Brady, an attorney with a biology and botany background, moved to the Glenview neighborhood to be near Dimond Canyon. She has been volunteering with FOSC and is particularly interested in restoration.
- Amos White is the founder and planter of *100K Trees for Humanity*. He is on the California Fires Board and the Alameda County Agricultural Advisory Committee. He will give a presentation at our October meeting.
- Mark Rauzon did *Show and Tell* with a cubit from the famous, now felled Dimond Park oak, which stood next to the scout hut. This is a "champagne oak", and was approximately 250 years old.

Adjournment

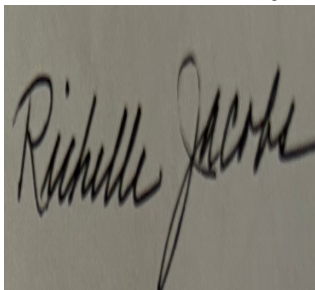
- The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m. followed by a closed session.

Next board meeting

- October 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m., in the Iona Room at Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church.

Closed Session:

- Vote on new Board of Directors members Maria Katticaran, Kristy Brady, and Delaney Welch.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richelle Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the closing text.

Respectfully submitted October 11, 2023