

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF SAUSAL CREEK  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION  
DECEMBER 8, 2004

**Board Members Present:**

Linda Morse, President  
Eric Havel, Acting Vice President  
Eleanor Dunn  
Mark Rauzon  
Michael Thilgen

**Also in Attendance:** Alisa Shor, Operations Manager, and Ralph Kanz.

**Approval of Minutes**—November minutes approved as written.

**Restoration Committee:**

**Highway 13 Update**—Karen Paulsell and Linda Morse attended a Cal Trans meeting. Cal Trans has made changes to their plan so that a portion of the median strip will be unpaved for possible future planting, although there is currently insufficient funding. Before changes were made to the plan, the contractor had already put down 95% compacted aggregate 12" deep. This substrate does not allow for restoring hydrologic value or functioning to the strip. It was suggested that FOSC seek mitigation measures in another area of the watershed. Signage along Hwy 13 was discussed. Board members suggested that Cal Trans put up signage to delineate the Sausal Creek watershed or indicate the restoration work of FOSC. Linda will contact Cal Trans once more to find out if signage is an option.

**Pallid Manzanita**—Eric Havel reported on the success and scope of the cooperative workday of FOSC and Chabot. This was acknowledged as a very important first step which proved that the community is willing to invest time and energy in the project with the hopes that leadership and institutions may begin to follow suit. Jean Quan attended during the day and was impressed by the cooperation and bulk of work accomplished. She stated that there may be paygo funds available to help with the next phase of tree removal. Other possible funding sources were discussed. FOSC representatives have estimated the cost of a Habitat Conservation Plan and significant clearing to be about \$20,000. Currently at issue, is the question of what agency is responsible for the work that is needed around the manzanitas. FOSC recognizes that the need is great for a Habitat Conservation Plan to be written and implemented. FOSC also recognizes that time is of the essence in ensuring that more plants do not die while the matter of responsibility is negotiated and funds are raised. A JPA meeting is scheduled to be held in January which FOSC representatives will attend.

The Restoration Committee recommends that the FOSC Board write a formal letter to the Chabot Board to bring the issue of the endangered manzanitas to the forefront. The letter could serve to update and educate Board members who are not familiar with the issue, and most importantly, prompt the Chabot Board to take some immediate action. The opportunities for using the manzanitas as an educational resource in future Earth science curriculum will be highlighted. FOSC will also participate in meetings to build partnerships with Chabot and agencies of the JPA, and will follow up with Jean Quan regarding possible funding sources for immediate tree removal. FOSC will also continue to advocate strongly for the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan as detailed in the original EIR.

**Nursery Policy on Reciprocity for Plants**—Currently plants for the FOSC nursery are donated or given to multiple projects, people, and organizations that have varying types of relationship to FOSC. The Restoration Committee is interested in clarifying a policy that would make sense of the ways in which we request reciprocity, if any, in exchange for the plants. In some cases FOSC would like to have members of other organizations contribute volunteer hours at the nursery in exchange for plants. The Committee recognizes that sometimes projects are initiated or spearheaded by the City without the support of a community group to contribute volunteer hours. FOSC is interested in continuing to support other local restoration efforts and is interested in establishing a general and reasonable policy that will be amenable to all parties.

**Education Committee**—Eleanor has forms from Heroes program under which the Ed docents could be serving. Information on fingerprinting is still being collected. The Heroes program allows for some risk mitigation this year while other risk management options are being explored.

**Board Development**—February is the proposed date for officer elections. A slate of candidates should be presented at the January Board meeting. Eric Havel has agreed to run for Vice President, Sheelah Weaver for Secretary, Diana Surber for Treasurer, and Linda Morse for President as long as she is in the state, and with the Board's recognition that there is a definite need for a replacement. The possibility of hiring an executive director was discussed.

**Business Plan**—A strategic planning meeting will occur next month, most likely from 6-8PM with a regular Board Meeting to follow from 8-9PM.