

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF SAUSAL CREEK
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION
JULY 14, 2004

Board Members Present:

Diana Surber, Treasurer
Eric Havel
Mark Rauzon
Michael Thilgen
Sheelah Weaver

Also in Attendance: Alisa Shor, Operations Manager and acting secretary.

Approval of Minutes—June minutes approved as corrected. January minutes are outstanding.

AmeriCorps Volunteer Discussion—Following discussion at the June Board meeting, Sue Morgan was contacted to gauge her interest in having an AmeriCorps volunteer work part-time with the education program. Sue was concerned that currently there is not enough funding in the education program to support an AC volunteer. Based on Sue's response and current staff time constraints, the Board agreed to defer the possibility of hiring an AC volunteer this fall and fundraise for the possibility of hiring an AC volunteer next year. Alisa will draft a letter rescinding the LOI that was sent to East Bay Conservation Corps several months ago. The letter will cite funding constraints as the main factor in the Board decision and will express interest in next year's AC program.

Creektober Fest—Sally was able to meet with Jean Quan who is enthusiastic about the event. Jean Quan's office is to check on issues including beer, dates, funding, and publicity. Next step is a follow up meeting with Jean Quan for an update on these matters. The issue of serving beer and its control at the event was discussed. Board members expressed concern about serving beer and suggested alternatives including not serving it at all or serving beer in a controlled way. It is proposed that the Board have another meeting dedicated to Creektober Fest before the next Board meeting to determine the scope of the event and make a final decision. If the decision is to move forward, this meeting will generate a tasks list of responsibilities for putting on the event.

Volunteer Event at JMP Nursery—Staff reports that preparations for the Splendor in the Bunch Grass event are well under way. Invitations have gone out, and caps for volunteer appreciation are to be ordered. The event is being supported by businesses who are donating food, and a blue grass band has agreed to play pro bono.

Financial Report—No significant changes in financials through the end of June. As June was the end of the fiscal year, Diana will have a year end report and next year's budget to be looked at side by side at the next Board meeting. Eric, Sue, and Diana will serve on an ad hoc committee to set up structure and procedures for how the program will work and how expenses get paid. The education program will serve as the inaugural program for these new program structures and procedures. The education program is currently funded at 40-45%. Scope of program will be adjusted based on funding. Of the funding for the education program, only a small amount is allocated to the FOSC operating budget for a portion of Kristen's time. Other grants also have very limited allotments for operating costs. The fund development committee is learning how to build FOSC operating costs into future grant proposals.

Fund Development Report—Committee has not met since last Board meeting. Rose Foundation has received application and we will hear from them in August. Gwyn Rhabyt was turned down for funding from the Hass Foundation so he has scaled back his project and is seeking funds from the City of Oakland. He has already started working and recently requested a draw on his funds. The Oaktree Project is an organization that donates in-kind services to non-profits and is accepting applications. The fund development committee is working on systems to get prospects in order for more efficient and effective follow up.

Education Committee—No one from the Board attended the last ed committee meeting. Focus of committee for the next few months is likely to be getting procedures in place as discussed above in the financial report.

Board Development—Deferred until Linda Morse returns.

WPAD—Alisa reported on the first WPAD meeting. Communication between the restoration committee and Sally who serves on the WPAD was discussed. FOSC sees the priority of the WPAD to hire a consultant and produce a report.

Shepard Canyon Group—Group is producing a 10 year management plan that has been advertised to the community. Mark has made contact with the group and would like to gauge the Board's interest in becoming involved or using a similar strategy. Currently FOSC's position has been to advocate to the City to develop a plan. Mark will make contact again and determine if the Shepard Canyon Group's plan is for public or private land and get more information on the scope of the project.

Canyon Tour with Jim Nichols of F&W—Tour to canyon, nursery, and manzanita site was led by Ralph Kanz, Karen Paulsell, Mark, and Diana. This tour underscored how powerful a tool it is to bring people to the canyon. Jim Nichols was very impressed with the work done by volunteers and took many photos. In discussion regarding the pallid manzanitas, FOSC members expressed the need for a management plan to be done by the appropriate agency. There was also discussion about FOSC's ability to propagate manzanitas, and the possibility of having a controlled burn at Joaquin Miller Island. In addition, Jim Nichols mentioned the possibility of introducing red and yellow-legged frogs to Sausal Creek.

Pallid manzanitas—Eric reported on progress regarding manzanitas from the perspective of Chabot. He is hoping to use the goats to open up the space around the manzanitas and have a more extensive clearing with paid and volunteer effort in the fall. Steve Edwards, botanist of the East Bay Regional Park Botanical Gardens who wrote a memo on the site in 1997, recently visited the manzanitas. He stands by his recommendations of 1997. Board expressed the importance of determining the process, protocols, and agencies involved. At the same time, it seems important to make some effort to protect the manzanitas while working within a process that is slow and bureaucratic. Chabot can help speed up the process through administrative contact with the City.

General Brochure—Sources of text are being compiled. Draft will go out to Jennifer Stanley for mock-up, and by the first week of August we should have pretty definitive draft to be sent out to the Board. Alisa will compile comments and send out revised draft. Photos will be selected once text is complete.

Other Business—Diana will check with Elliott Smith to find out if he is still photo-monitoring the sites, and clarify who owns the pictures he took under the FOSC grant. Eagle Scout will begin a trailhead kiosk

project at Bridgeview and will get plans for bulletin board at El Centro from Kristen. Camp Iwalewah sent a letter acknowledging FOSC staff and volunteers for a recent Ed program for their campers.

Alisa Shor, Operations Manager and Acting Secretary