

# Draft

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF SAUSAL CREEK  
A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2005

**Board Members Present:**

Sheelah Weaver, President  
Eric Havel, Vice President  
Sue Morgan  
Kristen Ohlson  
Harry Schrauth  
Michael Thilgen

**Also in Attendance:** Sara Marcelino, Group Coordinator, Diana Surber, treasurer emeritus

**Approval of Minutes** - April minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**Budget** - Diana Surber reported on cash flow and distributed a projected income and cash balance sheet. Cash flow projections indicate that we must continue our very conservative fiscal practices. Kristen Ohlson reported that workers compensation insurance rates are expected to drop 10-15% very soon. Diana continues to transition out of day-to-day financial management, passing information about processes to Sheelah, Sara, and Kristen. She plans to substantially complete her transition by July 1, 2005. The board members expressed our deep appreciation for all of the high quality professional work Diana has done for the Friends.

**Committee reports -**

**Education** – Sue Morgan reported that the education program closes for the year on Tuesday in Dimond Canyon. A Montclarion reported visited a class in the canyon recently and intends to write an article.

Sue is at work on a year-end summary of the program.

She reported that FOSC has received funding commitments for approximately \$20,000 toward next year's program, about 1/3 of the funding needed. She is optimistic that several current grant proposals will be well received, and that the program will be fully funded to continue at last year's level.

Sue reported that OUSD would probably vote to approve last year's contract tonight. She wishes to submit a proposal for next year as soon as possible. OUSD will supply Schedule B data on labor costs.

**Action:** The board authorized Sue to negotiate a contract for 20% of the year's program, with an option to expand, contingent on Schedule B costs not exceeding a 2% increase over last years. Last year's reports are to be completed prior to approval of next year's contract. The board will review the new contact, probably at the August meeting.

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**Restoration** - Eric Havel reported on the Chabot manzanita situation. The Chabot administration continues to cite lack of funds for not moving forward with a habitat management plan. It was suggested that we approach city staff members about the possibility of city crews removing trees that are shading the manzanitas. Also that we ask the Chabot administration to prepare a time line for habitat management plan preparation and field work. Board members remain concerned that without assertive action by FOSC, the manzanita issue will not be addressed in a timely way.

**Action:** Harry will contact Brooke Levin of Public Works, and Michael will contact Martin Mataresse of Parks & Recreation about the possibility of city crews removing some trees.

We have not received a proposal from the California Native Plant Society regarding shared use of the Joaquin Miller Native Plant Nursery. There is some doubt that CNPS will be sending a proposal. It was suggested that FOSC approach the city for permission to sell plants at the nursery, with or without CNPS.

**Action:** Kristen Hopper will be invited to the next board meeting to discuss strategy.

**Fundraising** – Sheelah reported that planning is moving forward on the summer fundraising party at Peralta Hacienda. She distributed tickets for board members to sell.

Sara received a request from a local school for a Dimond Canyon field trip. This was one of many inquiries received over the last few years. Sara refused the request, but raised the issue to the board as a potential revenue source, especially if we could generate a sizable list of docents who would be willing to lead the trips. It was suggested that a facilitating watershed tours could advance our educational goals as well as enhance our funding picture. Concern was expressed about docent screening and liability issues, and the logistical demands on FOSC staff time if we pursue watershed tours. The discussion ended without resolution.

There was brief general discussion about World Environment Day.

A hearty welcome was extended to our new board member, Harry Schrauth. Harry provided invaluable support to FOSC during our early years, both professionally in his capacity with Oakland Public Works, and as a very active field volunteer. We are delighted to have Harry working with us again.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Thilgen, Acting Secretary