

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting of the Friends of Sausal Creek
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation
Minutes for the meeting on September 14, 2005

Board Members Present:

Sheelah Weaver, President (SW)
Eric Havel, Vice President (EH)
Sue Morgan (SM)
Kristin Ohlson (KO)
Mark Rauzon (MR)
Eleanor Dunn (ED)
Harry Schrauth (HS)
Michael Thilgen (MT)

Also in Attendance:

Sara Marcellino, Operations Manager (SaraM)
Kristen Hopper, Nursery Manager (KH)
Barbara Goldenberg, steadfast volunteer (BG)

Meeting Location:

Chabot Space and Science Center (CSSC) board room

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Introduction: Barbara Goldenberg introduced herself. She is a regular volunteer docent for the FOSC education program and also does other volunteer activities for the organization. She is also a District 4 representative to the Oakland Wildfire Prevention District Advisory Board. Although she does not represent FOSC on this board, she is open to hearing our information about Wildfire Prevention.

Approval of Minutes: July 13, 2005 minutes were approved. (MR moved/ MT seconded/ all approved).

Creek to Bay Day: KH provided an update on arrangements for Creek to Bay Day – September 17, 2005. There will be activities in Dimond Park and the Joaquin Miller Park Native Plant Nursery. Sara M. will be in charge of tableing and food, and KH is in charge of work assignments. KH noted that we recently received \$2500 in funds from Henry Chang's office that provided \$1651 for much needed tools for the upcoming event. The remainder of the funds will be used for irrigation repair and materials. There was general board agreement to make sure to thank Henry Chang. It was also noted that we need to thank Jean Quan's office for providing breakfast foods, and Aidel's sausage for providing our lunch. KH mentioned that Kristin Hathaway (City organizer for Creek to Bay Day-City of Oakland, Dept. of Public Works, Environmental Services) requested that we avoid the use of plastic water bottles. KH has made arrangements for water containers with biodegradable cornstarch cups to be used in most locations. Work assignments were reviewed and specific requests for assistance were discussed. SW also mentioned that there will be a raffle on Creek to Bay Day to try to raise more funds. The prize will be a plant arrangement. MR discussed possibly heading to the head of the Upper Dimond Canyon Trail at the head of Bridgeview Drive to solicit donations from dog walkers. There was also a mention that one or two volunteers are planning to represent FOSC at the mouth of Sausal Creek on the estuary for Creek to Bay Day. A discussion of the condition of this site, along with a recent fire at the location, produced some concern among board members. MR suggested that Ignacio de la Fuente be advised again of the problems at this site.

Financial Report: SaraM attempted to provide information on the financial state of FOSC. Unfortunately, the transfer of the books from Diana Sarber to SaraM has not yet occurred. All attending board members expressed concern about the situation. It was determined that all financial files related to the organization need to be transferred from Diana to Sara M. within the next two weeks to handle upcoming requests for funding and IRS obligations. If this does not occur, SW will contact DS and facilitate the transfer. All

board members expressed great appreciation of Diana Sarber's work and expertise in handling our finances for many years. We continue to hope for her advice and help, but we need to handle current obligations in a timely manner for the viability of the organization.

A discussion of grant writing also occurred. KH has been released from field work to handle grant applications, but she feels at a loss for direction. SM offered to help her identify the most promising grants given our current situation. A need for unencumbered funds was also discussed. MR mentioned his discussions with realtors.

Volunteer Waivers: KO reviewed the current liability waiver. She has collected information from eight other organizations with volunteer activities similar to our own. Many require no waiver at all, few as elaborate as our own, and few requiring indemnification. SM discussed that education volunteers are currently working through the OUSD HEROES program. As all students in her program are from OUSD, the HEROES program is currently handling volunteer waivers and TB testing for all docents. KO will rewrite our liability waiver to address current board concerns (SW moved/ED seconded/ all approved).

Pallid Manzanita - discussion postponed till next month.

Membership appreciation - SaraM spoke with Sam Marshall, owner of Eli's Mile High Club, who offered the Marshall Law Band for the event in Dimond Park. There was a misunderstanding of the date. Sam is available on Sunday October 16 from noon to 2 pm. FOOSC had planned on Saturday, but has not publicized, so a change is possible. Need permission from City for music, Sara will pursue. Food donations still needed.

Mark then suggested that we postpone Membership Appreciation till Nov or Dec, and combine it with a fundraiser at Eli's to take more advantage of the offer of free music. Talk followed about the value of acknowledgement of volunteers for their contributions. Sara suggested acknowledging individuals in the newsletter rather than, or in addition to, at an event. There was general interest in postponing MA and exploring Eli's possibilities, but no resolution was put forward.

Eric expressed interest in coordinating a joint CSSC/FOOSC fundraiser at CSSC in early to mid December, highlighting joint efforts in education and habitat management.

And Sue raised the possibility of a FOOSC 10 year anniversary fundraising event.

These items will be considered in committee and at the next board meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 9:30.

Minutes prepared by Eleanor Dunn. Discussion from Pallid Manzanita to Adjournment provided by Michael Thilgen.