

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
May 18, 2009
Youth Center
16 Park Rd.

Mission Statement: "To foster goodwill and community spirit in Fairfax through volunteer activities."

Board Members: John Reed, Holly Bragman, Melanie Peratis, Anya Schandler, Tim Barrett, Lana Pereyaslavka

Present: John Reed, Melanie Peratis, Tim Barrett, Lana Pereyaslavka, Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator,

John called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. The April minutes were approved with the following changes: "firnicular trails should actually be furnicular trails."

Public Forum-

1. Reports

- **Chair-** John stated there is some china and flatware missing from the cupboard at the Women's Club. Maria will ask Public Works to secure the cabinets with a combination locker.
- **Treaurer** -John mentioned he contacted the library because money is owed to the County from the water bill for the community garden over the past few years. Maria will try to track down a copy of the original agreement.
- **Coordinator-**Maria reported the storage unit in front of the Youth Center was broken into and 4 boxes of trail reflectors were stolen. A police report was filed and the remaining units were removed. The storage units will be moved to the rear of the building for safety, and valuable items are not kept inside. These units are not waterproof, so this may only be a temporary solution
- **Discussion-**Tim suggested the Fairfax Volunteers maintain a blog instead of a website, which has become outdated. John expressed that there is much information on the website that is not outdated, and that it's organization by subject is important. It was agreed that the current format, with the old material at the top of the page was not good, and that a blog format might work well on the "splash" (first) page, perhaps containing blasts in a rolling format. Organizing pages so that the most recent is on top, with updates more easily done by various members of the board would also be good. The program currently used for this is *Contribute*, an offshoot of *Dreamweaver*.

Old Business

- **Fairfax Trails project**-John announced he has an Eagle Scout who is interested in constructing steps on a trail on Midway & Berry, leading towards Scenic. This is a trail where many neighbors have done preliminary clearing.
- **Chipper Day project review**-John updated the group on the success of the chipper day on the Scenic/Tamalpais loop. A total of 30 cubic yards of debris was cleared on April 26th. John added the Town has received a fuel reduction grant in the amount of \$168,831 from the USDA Forest Service to reduce fire danger, and some of this money may be used to pay for chipping at future events. The areas of town designated for future vegetation removal include the Cascades, Scenic Hill, and Deer Park/Hillside. John reiterated he would like to see the neighborhood groups organize future chipping events and provide the momentum to keep the project going. He spent approximately 50 hours on this last chipper event, along with Holly and Larry Bragman. The bulk of the canvassing and groundwork was done by three neighborhood leaders. The hope is that various targeted neighborhoods will use the chipper day pilot program as a model, to be duplicated in their own areas. John intends to make copies of the leaflets; and flyers, and develop instructional sheets based on the last event, which Tim will format into a user friendly chipper day “how to” binder.
- **Pet Waste stations**- Maria announced the 3 new containers have arrived. They will be installed at Deer Park, on Porteous, and on Oak Knoll (most likely). Another option would be to place one on Ridge Road.

2. **Future Projects- 2009**

- **Ecofest Table**- The Volunteers will once again sponsor a table at Ecofest during the festival the weekend of June 13 & 14th. The following participants will staff the table:

<u>Sat.6/13</u>	<u>Sun. 6/14</u>
12-2:30 p.m. John	11-2 Lana
2:30-5 p.m. Maria	2-5 Tim

Members absent from the meeting will be encouraged to help staff the table as well.

In preparation of Ecofest, Maria will e-mail Tim a list of dates for upcoming Volunteer sponsored events. Tim will prepare a postcard advertising **creek clean-up (tentatively on July 25)**, the **picnic (Sept. 20)**, and the **holiday potluck caroling (Dec. 13)** functions. The

Volunteers will also include info on the recent chipper day pilot program, and encouragement for others to duplicate this in their own neighborhoods, the trail awareness/clearing project, and other Volunteer sponsored activities.

- **Creek clean-up**- The Board felt that the event should be continued on the earlier date, as it was last year, for health reasons. This date was set last year to coordinate with San Anselmo's creek clean-up. Maria has placed a call to Debra Stutsman regarding coordinating a joint creek clean-up in July. She will inform the Board of a potential date.
- **Picnic**-John mentioned he spoke with Peter Penhollow of the *Liddypudlians* (Beatles music band) who informed him they may not be available for the picnic this year. If this is the case, Melanie suggested getting the *Gas Men* to play at the picnic. Mika Scott has expressed interest in leading a drumming circle. A local Boy Scout troop #15 has contacted John regarding selling hot dogs at the event. This was approved if they agree to also sell veggie dogs. The picnic sub-committee will begin meeting in late June.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m., Youth Center.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.