

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
February 28, 2011
Youth Center
16 Park Rd.

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

Members in attendance: Holly Bragman, Melanie Peratis, Anya Schandler, Bruce Killen, Merrell Maschino. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance, Mayor Larry Bragman; David Haskell, Marin Link; Elizabeth Baker, Sustainable Fairfax

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the January 24th meeting were approved.

1. Reports

- **Chair**-Holly welcomed guest speakers Larry Bragman and David Haskell.
- **Treasurer**-Efren was unable to attend this meeting.
- **Coordinator**-Maria announced the fire reduction grant was in Phase 3 – Sudden Oak Death tree removal component. The trees designated for removal are on the Tree Committee meeting agenda for this evening. The removal process will begin March 1st.

2. New Business

- a) **Community Food Bank** –David Haskell of the Marin County Food System Assessment Team, affiliated with Marin Link, spoke on the need for a food bank in Fairfax. Currently, there is a very successful program in San Geranimo Valley that also serves Fairfax residents. He spoke of the Marin Food Bank's collaboration with the San Francisco Food Bank, which has enhanced the program. He has been working with the Fairfax Community Church in establishing a food pantry on-site at the church on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The other parties involved include Roberto Gonzales of the Marin Food Bank, Larry Bragman, and Reverend Katherine Hartz of the Fairfax Community Church. They are proposing the site be open to the public on Saturdays mornings. The location is on a main bus route.
- ACTION ITEM: After much discussion, the Volunteers for Fairfax offered to be the non-profit 501 (c) 3 to support the program. They will also try to enlist volunteer help and get the word out about the program.** David added there are many senior citizens in Fairfax that are in need and could be recipients of the program. Maria will make an announcement at the Ross Valley Seniors meeting later this week.

- b) **Harvest Exchange**-Elizabeth Barker of Sustainable Fairfax briefed the group on a fruit & vegetable exchange program that Sustainable Fairfax implemented last year. The program was administered along with Marin Open Harvest Exchange in the backyard of Sustainable Fairfax from June through September of 2010. It was offered on Saturday afternoons from 3-4:00 p.m. Participation was low (1-10 users), largely in part due to the location. Elizabeth brought up the question of whether the produce could be distributed through the Food Bank, and inquired what the regulations are regarding seeds and herbs. She thought it would also be an opportunity to share gardening tips and enable some of the food bank recipients to grow their own produce.
- c) **Earth Day event**- was postponed until mid-May. Bruce & Melanie will speak with John and Efen about priority trail maintenance and the next trail installation site.

Old Business

- a) **Town committees social event** – There have been 21 RSVPs to date for the event, which is this Thursday. Holly will purchase lasagna for the main course. Maria brought a trivia game, courtesy of the Fairfax Historical Society, with questions about Fairfax. Melanie has a book on the history of Fairfax, and will provide additional questions. Committee members were asked to get all game questions to Maria by noon on Wed., March 2nd so she can include them in the game questions. She will purchase prizes with a \$25 gift certificate from Fairfax Variety that was leftover from the picnic. Bruce will be the emcee for the trivia game. Holly will send out an additional e-mail reminding invitees of the event. The chair of each committee will be asked to give a five minute presentation on the purpose of their committee at the onset of the meeting. Holly will arrive early for set-up. Maria will be at the Women’s Club earlier that day for the Ross Valley Seniors meeting. She will ensure the room is set-up properly and the microphone is available at the podium. She will bring name tags for the attendees. Merrill will be the official photographer at the event.
- b) **Song contest**- A subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th at 1:00 p.m. at Melanie’s house, 25 Park Road. Maria will send out a reminder and include David Smadbeck.
- c) **Other business**-Anya announced the pet waste bag dispenser was down at Deer Park, near 33 Meernaa. Bruce will look into this. Melanie will follow up with the community garden water bill. Holly will send out an e-mail blast in the near future on the Easter egg hunt, the food bank, and the song contest.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 28th at 6:30 p.m. at Youth Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.