

**Minutes**  
**Volunteer Program Advisory Board**  
**January 23, 2011**  
**Youth Center**  
**16 Park Road**

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

Members in attendance: Holly Bragman, Melanie Peratis, Merrell Maschino, Anya Schandler, Bruce Killen, Ted Pugh, Helen Fauss. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance: Karen Chen, Carol Ferenchak

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the December meeting were approved with minor revisions.

**1. Reports**

- **Chair-** Holly announced a website entitled [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) will show you the names of your neighbors.
- **Treasurer-** Bruce met with Efren and now has possession of the check book. He reimbursed Melanie & Anya for holiday party related expenses. The balance in the checking account is currently \$2,627.
- **Coordinator-** Maria announced the Town will promote volunteerism on the homepage of its website.
- **Discussion** – Holly announced she purchased gift certificates from Naves for the Public Works crew as a holiday gift.

**2. New Business**

- a) **Introduction of new member**–the Board welcomed Helen Fauss, newly appointed member. Helen previously served on the Open Space Committee, and is particularly interested in the brush clearing/vegetation management program as well as the trails maintenance project. Helen served as a neighborhood leader for the chipper days in the Scenic neighborhood. The group acknowledged the wealth of information that Helen brings to the Volunteer Board.
- b) **Neighborhood buddy system**-Karen Chen, a resident of Piper Lane, is interested in organizing her community around emergency preparedness. Piper Lane is in west Fairfax, near Manor School. Karen was previously on the board of Sustainable Fairfax, and completed her PhD dissertation on to how to create neighborhood preparedness. She underwent CERT training recently, and is very motivated to work on this issue. Her neighbor, Carol Ferenchak, also attended the meeting. Carol is a registered nurse who is a member of the Marin Reserve Medical Corps (MRMC). The goal of MRMC is to

support public health in Marin County, and assist residents in the case of a disaster where emergency responders are unable to get to the victims. The women will start by scheduling a CERT training for the community at the Youth Center. Karen will check with Captain Craig Carroll of the Ross Valley Fire Department on availability, and Maria will secure the room. Maria distributed a copy of the neighborhood survey prepared by the Volunteer Board. She suggested that Karen and Carol might want to distribute the survey door-to-door, to enlist their neighbors. The Volunteers had previously sought to have a “pilot” neighborhood that could be used as a model for the Volunteer Board to emulate in other parts of town. Additionally, the group may staff an information table at the picnic. Holly invited Karen and Carol to return to the February meeting with their findings. She also encouraged the Board to form a sub-committee on the topic. Merrell will send out an e-mail blast requesting medical professionals in Fairfax to join the Marin Medical Reserve Corp, which has no representation from Fairfax.

c) **Goals & Objectives for 2012**-the following goals were announced:

- **Improve emergency preparedness in Fairfax**-particularly in the neighborhoods.
- **Conduct poetry slam contest**-in May at the Sleeping Lady.
- **Conduct creek species education series**- with local experts.
- **Maintain fire safety through vegetation management**-this may involve recruiting local volunteers to provide brush clearing and hauling of yard debris to central location for chipping.
- **Fairfax Food Pantry** – continue participation in staffing food bank as well as outreach and promotion.
- **Trail Project**-continue to improve local trails for recreational use and/or emergency evacuation.
- **Community garden** – plots available at the library.
- **Community Seder** – organize to celebrate Passover in April.
- **Creek clean-up** – clear creek of debris to reduce pollution and flood hazard.
- **Town-wide picnic**-organize and promote family fun activities in September on the ball field.
- **Holiday potluck**- make wreaths, sing carols, and host potluck in the Women’s Club in December.

### **Old Business**

- a) **Community garden water bill**– the library has submitted their first bi-annual bill, as requested. The amount is \$355.16 for the last six months of 2011. Last year, a total of \$800 was collected from the community gardeners for the water bill. The fees are collected in July of each year.

At the current rate of water usage, the garden fees shall remain the same. Merrell inquired as to how one secures a plot at the community garden. Mel responded that there is a waiting list, which Spirit Wiseman oversees. Her contact phone number is 455-1126.

- b) **Fundraising for Fairfax Food Bank**-Holly announced a concert is planned for this Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Fairfax Community Church to benefit the food bank. “Ring of Fire”, a Johnny Cash tribute band is playing.

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.**