

**Minutes**  
**Volunteer Program Advisory Board**  
**March 26, 2012**  
**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, Ted Pugh, Anya Schandler, Bruce Killen. Excused Absences: Helen Fauss, Merrell Maschino. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance: Council Member John Reed

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

**1. Reports**

- **Chair-** Holly announced Seder is in danger of being cancelled if more volunteers are not available to organize. Another e-mail blast will be sent out, calling for help for the Seder, as well as advertising the Open Space Fundraiser concert, Bazaar Fete, opportunities for food bank deliveries to the home-bound. Maria will coordinate with Merrell on the content.
- **Treasurer-**no news to report.
- **Coordinator-**Maria announced the Open Space Fundraiser Concert is scheduled for Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-6 p.m. at Peri Park. It is being sponsored by PARC.
- **Discussion** – John announced he walked several trails that eventually lead to Mt. Tamalpais. These trail project improvements may qualify for the Emig Trust Fund grant monies. They are on Spring Lane, Deer Park Drive, and Crest. He will send Maria photographs of the trails so she may submit a grant on behalf of the Town. He will also send her maps of the areas. The grant deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>. Merrell submitted photos of a trail in Deer Park that is in disarray, which may also potentially qualify. Anya announced there were 10 attendees at the "Get Ready" training on March 21<sup>st</sup>, hosted by the Ross Valley Fire Department.

**2. New Business**

- a) **Next door.com**–Ted unveiled a new start-up dotcom "Nextdoor.com" that is based out of San Francisco. It began in 2010, and has many neighborhoods listed in San Francisco, including Glen Park, Potrero Hill, Richmond District, Sunset District, etc. He has registered his

neighborhood – Fairfax Heights- and is currently the administrator for the site. Each site is neighborhood specific, and is only open to residents of that particular neighborhood. The idea is the website would link neighbors for a neighborhood watch, emergency evacuation, crime reports, and other areas of concern where neighbors might want to notify each other. It could also serve as a social website, such as getting neighbors together for block parties, dinners at local restaurants, etc. The website has multi-faceted functions. Ted's goal is to get other neighborhoods in Fairfax registered, establish neighborhood leaders, as well as neighborhood captains.

**ACTION ITEM: Volunteer Board members will e-mail Ted with potential candidates for the Fairfax Heights neighborhood, as well as people in other areas that may be candidates for leadership to expand the website throughout Fairfax.**

To date, there are 18 members on the Fairfax Heights website. Ted's goal is to have 20% of his neighborhood on board by the next meeting date. He makes a point of meeting and/or screening potential candidates prior to inviting them to the website. He also suggested looking at the maps again, and insuring the boundaries separating the neighborhoods are correct. John added that the map the volunteers have used was based on a zoning map, that was then adapted to the boundaries the Police Department uses when responding to calls. Therefore, the volunteers map is a more realistic tool to use. Since Ted is the GPIC candidate representative from the Volunteer Board, he has been working with Jim Moore and Linda Neal of the Planning Department on this project.

- b) **Poetry Slam Contest-** Maria announced Merrell and Melanie had produced a poster promoting the contest. The poster has been distributed to downtown merchants, schools, the library, etc. Maria has sent it to the media, and it will soon be on the Town's website. The following guidelines were established for the poetry slam: the poem should be about Fairfax, no longer than 3 minutes in length, be positive, and contain no profanities. Applicants should arrive at the Sleeping Lady Café promptly at 7:30 p.m., half an hour prior to the slam. They should bring 2 copies of their poem with them for submittal the night of the event. No pre-registration is necessary. Anya announced the English teachers at Drake High School may offer credit for participation in the poetry slam. It was suggested that perhaps a high school student might want to tape the performance. It could then be broadcast by the Community Media Center. The sub-committee will meet one more time prior to the event, date TBA.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.**