

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
May 21, 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, Helen Fauss, Merrell Maschino. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance: Council Member John Reed, Neil Krause

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the April meeting were approved with the following minor revisions (correction in italics): Under New Business, Nextdoor.com: *Ten* is the minimum number required for a neighborhood to launch Nextdoor.com. Under Poetry Slam contest: Posters will be placed at the parkade and the old *Rhino gas station* parking lot.

1. Reports

- **Chair-** Holly announced a group called "No Hunger in Fairfax" had formed. She stated that they are comprised of representatives from the Marin County Department of Health & Human Services, who have secured federal grant funding to provide senior lunch meals with the Good Earth as the food provider. They are considering a Saturday lunch session at the Fairfax Community Church, site of the Fairfax Food Pantry. Helen Fauss offered to serve as liaison to this group.
- **Treasurer-**Melanie announced the Volunteers made \$48 at the poetry slam from the Sleeping Lady Café, which gave a portion of its revenue from the evening to the performing artists.
- **Coordinator-**Maria announced a Peri Park clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, June 2nd from 9-12. There will be opportunities to sand the benches, paint the bocce ball courts, and clean the playground area.
- **Discussion** –John Reed announced the "Streets for People" event, scheduled for Sunday, August 26th, would like to sell beer at the event. They are requesting use of the Volunteer's liquor liability insurance policy. This item will be placed on the June Volunteer Board agenda for consideration.

2. New Business

- a) **Town-wide picnic**–The date of Sunday, September 16th was officially chosen for the picnic. A sub-committee comprised of Anya, Holly,

Melanie, Merrell, and Maria will begin meeting in late June. Anya requested that Mauro's Pasta be asked if he would like to be the food vendor once again. Maria will contact him. If he declines, Anya would like to ask Barefoot Café. Maria suggested perhaps Avatar, the new Punjabi burrito restaurant in town would be a good caterer for the event. Their meals can be served cold, and are easy to eat without utensils.

- b) **Poetry Slam Contest-** Maria commented the feedback she received on the poetry slam was very positive. It provided an opportunity for novices to perform their poetry in front of an audience. Many of the attendees requested an opportunity to perform again. It was suggested for next year that perhaps a comedy competition or a talent show be conducted by the Volunteers.
- c) **Ecofest Coverage at Fairfax Festival-** Maria distributed a signup sheet to the group to have volunteers at the information table. Bruce had indicated via e-mail that he could take a shift. Maria suggested that a laptop computer be hooked up, so potential volunteers could sign up for events at the www.eventsvolunteer.com website. Merrell will see if she has a computer available. Maria will check to make sure WiFi service is available at the Pavilion. Maria will also work on a display board to exhibit at the event. Holly asked if the volunteers minded sharing a table with the Fairfax Food Pantry. The consensus of the group was that it was fine to share a table. Sustainable Fairfax and the Chamber of Commerce will also share a table nearby.

3.Old Business

- a) **Trail marking project-** to be continued at next meeting.
- b) **Website update-**Merrell announced she is still unable to take over the server from Scott Valentino. John Reed will contact Scott to help expedite the process. The Volunteers may need to reimburse Scott \$200 for website maintenance expenses over the year.
- c) **Nextdoor.com-** Ted invited Neil Krause to attend the meeting. Neil resides in the Fairfax Park neighborhood, on Acacia. He has launched nextdoor.com for his neighborhood, which consists of 248 homes. It was recommended that some guidelines be included in inviting residents to join nextdoor.com that could address privacy and security issues. Nextdoor suggests each neighborhood create goals and guidelines for use, security, privacy, etc. posted on each website. Merrell stated it is not very simple to change your profile once you have created it. She had to contact the website's administrator in order to alter her entry. It was suggested before the Volunteers endorse nextdoor.com as one of their projects, more

research be done on the site. It was also suggested that a city page for Fairfax be created, and perhaps a message could be sent out to all neighborhoods on nextdoor.com. John Reed will work on this message. The city page program could be used by the Town Administration, Police and Fire Departments to post notices and information to selected neighborhoods. Melanie inquired as to what neighborhood Park Road was considered; Ted replied it was part of Pacheco Park. The neighborhoods are set up according to the original parcels of land when the Town was established. The neighborhood borders could be modified if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. **Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.**