

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
November 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, Merrell Maschino, Ted Pugh, Bruce Killen, Helen Fauss, Anya Schandler. 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 October meeting were approved.

1. Reports

- **Chair** – Holly announced there are two potential candidates for the Volunteer Board vacancy. One is Karen Chen, who attended the meeting last year in response to neighborhood emergency preparedness efforts, and the other is a volunteer at the Fairfax Food Bank.
- **Treasurer**-Bruce announced the balance of the checking account is \$2,778.26. Holly turned in some reimbursements for creek clean-up.
- **Coordinator**-Maria announced the deck of Peri Park was painted, and a new garbage can was installed by the restrooms as part of the recent clean-up effort. In addition, the Pavilion lobby was painted by a group of PARC volunteers and the artists-in-residence.
- **Discussion** – Melanie announce she would continue to monitor the community garden water bill for the Board following her departure.

2. New Business

- a) **Holiday wreathmaking/caroling/potluck**- Helen, Holly, Anya and Maria met to begin the planning for the upcoming holiday event on Sunday, December 16th. The event will be held at the Women's Club from 2-5 p.m. Maria has confirmed that Chas will once again play Santa Claus, and has reserved the Santa Claus suit with the Ross Valley Fire Department. She has also spoken to Adam Neville, who will once again lead the caroling at the event. Merrell completed the poster and will e-mail it to Maria, who will print and distribute it to downtown merchants.

Holly asked if Melanie can coordinate the greenery cuttings with Manor School, and provide the tablecloths and decoration for the table. Melanie

happily obliged. Helen has approached several restaurants for food donations, and is receiving positive feedback. So far, she has secured salads from the Sleeping Lady Café, and will also ask the Good Earth for salad and bread. She will contact Fradelizio's and one other restaurant for lasagna. Holly commented we need table monitors at the holiday event, to ensure children don't take too much food and it ends up going to waste. Holly has purchased apple cider for the event. Maria will buy the coffee. Maria has already dropped off the banner for changes to the date. Bruce will help put up the sandwich boards downtown as it gets closer to the event. The next sub-committee will be held on Monday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the Youth Center.

- b) **Chipper Day grant for 2013** – Holly announced there have been changes made to the grant guidelines that will make it more challenging to apply for a vegetation management grant from the California Fire Safe Council. John Reed added that the agency is now requiring a 50% matching funds from the grant recipient. Previously, the matching funds amount was 10%. He believes the matching funds can be in-kind services, and not monetary. He approached the Ross Valley Fire Board at their most recent meeting about the possibility of applying for future funding for vegetation management. Roger Meagor suggested perhaps going through Fire Safe Marin to apply for the funds, and they could serve as the administrative managers of the grant. The Volunteer Board will further investigate this option.

In the meantime, the Town will continue to provide chipper day drop off service through funding allocated in the garbage rate through Marin Sanitary for chipper waste collection. Holly added it might be helpful for the Volunteers to designate a resident for chipper days that needs assistance in getting their yard debris to the Pavilion parking lot.

There was some discussion that there are vacant lots in Town where the properties are in foreclosure, and the banks are not responsible for maintaining the lot. These properties have overgrown brush that is not being maintained. One option is for neighbors to step in and help clear the property.

Another discussion ensued on how aggressive the Fire Department is in pursuing property owners with overgrown vegetation. John explained that the current ordinance puts a lien on the property if they are in violation. Because the matter must go to court, it is a long, drawn out process. Helen recommended looking at the City of San Rafael's program, which issues citations for overgrown vegetation. Ted mentioned the City of Oakland also has a similar program. Holly suggested perhaps we could look at adopting a similar ordinance here. John added it would have to go before the Town Council to be considered.

Old Business:

- a) **Trail Marking Day** – Bruce reported the trail repairs ended up being very successful, with the bridge on Porteous being fixed. Melanie added one of the neighbors had issues with the trail posts being installed near her property, so they were moved to an adjacent site. John commented that three posts were successfully installed at Porteous & Meernaa. Ted also assisted with the event.

- b) **Pet waste dispensers & disposal options**- Ted has obtained a new pet waste dispenser from Maria, and will replace the damaged one in front of Beach House Style. He will need a crowbar to remove the damaged one, since the lock is jammed, and it cannot be opened with the key.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The Board will skip the December meeting, and instead have a holiday dinner at Lincoln Park in San Anselmo on Tuesday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m.