

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
October 29, 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. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance: Council Member John Reed, Jo Carson

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

1. **Open Time-** Melanie announced she had spoken with John Reed and Judy Anderson about adding additional monies to the Town's budget under the Volunteer's line item to support the community garden. Maria mentioned that Marin Sanitary had submitted a \$200 check for picnic sponsorship, but inadvertently made it out to the Town, rather than the Volunteer Board. The money was deposited into the Town's Volunteer account.
2. **Reports**
 - **Chair** – Holly recommended a new megaphone be purchased for next year's picnic, since the one that the Volunteers borrow from Terry Ciafrei does not work well.
 - **Treasurer**-Bruce announced the balance of the checking account is \$2,272. Maria turned in an additional check for \$25 that was collected from the Marin County Bicycle Coalition for pop-up tent rentals.
 - **Coordinator**-Maria announced there were two Park & Rec events coming up in November. The first is a Peri Park clean-up, scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd from 9:00 a.m.- 12 noon. The second event is a Pavilion work party that will be held on Sunday, November 18th from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
3. **New Business**
 - a) **Nomination of Melanie Peratis for 2012 Heart of Marin awards-** Maria announced she would like to nominate Mel for "Volunteer of the Year" award, sponsored by the Center for Non-profit & Volunteer Leadership(CNVL). In order to qualify, a volunteer may not serve on a board. Since Mel's term is due to expire this month, she would qualify. Maria also checked with the CNVL to make sure she was an eligible candidate. In addition to being recognized at a luncheon at

the Marin Center on January 10th, the agency receives \$5,000. Melanie was honored to receive the recommendation. Maria will begin work on the application, which is due on November 9th, and circulate among the group for input. **ACTION ITEM: The Volunteer Board voted to support the nomination of Melanie Peratis for “Volunteer of the Year”, sponsored by CNVL.**

- b) **Holiday Wreathmaking/Caroling/Potluck-** this event is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th from either 2-5 p.m. or 3-6 p.m., depending on when the Chamber of Commerce offers the horse & buggy rides. A sub-committee consisting of Holly, Merrell, and Maria was formed, and will meet on Tuesday, November 13th at 2 p.m. at the Youth Center. Maria has reserved the Women’s Club for the event, and has also reserved the banner space across Sir Francis Drake Blvd. She will have the changes made to the banner as well. Merrell will work on the poster. Maria suggested the poster be distributed after Thanksgiving. Melanie added that Chas will once again participate as Santa Claus. The holiday party will also be promoted at the Crafts Fair, which is the prior weekend.
- c) **Trail Marking event – November 4th** – this event is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Merrell announced the trail in Deer Park at Porteous & Meernaa was in disarray and in need of repairs. **ACTION ITEM: The Volunteer Board voted to repair the existing trail at Porteous & Meernaa rather than install new trail posts.**

4. Old Business

- a) **Chipper day re-cap-** Chipper day was very successful, with approximately 50 participants on each day. Helen Fauss and Denny Ferry monitored the residency of people dropping off brush. A total of one 18 foot debris box plus three truck loads of vegetation was collected on the first day, and another 18 foot debris box and a 23 foot debris box were filled on the second day. Helen announced she still felt the pick-up program was more convenient, and is interested in applying for another grant to conduct chipper days through the California Fire Safe Council. Maria stated she would need to get permission from the Town and coordinate with the Fire Department to apply for the grant, since they are involved in much of the work.
- b) **Creek clean-up** – Maria announced that only one person from the public turned out for creek clean-up, and it was Kay Ryan, poet laureate. Holly and Bruce participated from the Volunteer Board as well. Debris in the creek was relatively light, so the Volunteers may not continue conducting a creek clean-up in future years.

- c) **Pet waste dispensers & disposal options**- Ted spoke with the owner of the property at Beach House Style, who gave permission to move the pet dispenser located near there on her fence. The only concern is that people will toss the doggie bag waste over the fence, since there is no trash receptacle nearby. The Volunteers will consider obtaining a trash receptacle for that site, and determine who will service it. Ted will repair the pet bag dispenser at that site, which is damaged.

- d) **Next meeting** - **scheduled for Monday, November 26th at 6:30 p.m.**
Topics for discussion will include: new member recruitment and resilient neighborhoods project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.