

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
February 25, 2013
Youth Center
16 Park Road

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

Members in attendance: Holly Bragman, Merrell Maschino, Bruce Killen, Ted Pugh, Helen Fauss, Anya Schandler. Staff in attendance: Garrett Toy, Town Manager, Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator

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

1. Reports

- **Chair** – Holly inquired as to whom the designee should be to post the wooden board with the "Spare the Air" sign at Bolinas Park. Bruce is not able to do it on short notice, as is the case with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's notification. Holly suggested perhaps a light weight banner be made so Maria could put up the sign. Maria will look into prices for banner production.
- **Treasurer-** Maria presented Bruce with a bill from the County library in the amount of \$333 for water usage at the community garden. Bruce issued a check for the said amount, and presented it to Maria, who will in turn mail it to the library. The remaining balance in the checking account is \$2,138.
- **Coordinator-** Maria indicated she had received mail correspondence through the Ernest Emig Trust Fund for potential grant funding towards trail maintenance projects. She will contact the attorney representing the trust to see if the Volunteer's trail building projects qualify under the criteria presented.
- **Discussion** – Holly announced that Ecofest will reimburse the Volunteer Board for insurance costs incurred by the Board towards the liquor liability portion of the Volunteer's insurance. The question of whether the Volunteers should once again host a community Seder came up. Holly will ask Claire Chekendal if she is interested in organizing the event on Passover. Maria will check to see if the Women's Club is available on that date of March 29th for the function.

2. New Business

- a) **Introduction- New Town Manager**- Garrett Toy introduced himself as the Town's new manager. Garrett has been on the job for 4 weeks now, and brings a wealth of experience from his previous positions in city government. The Volunteer Board welcomed Garrett to Fairfax.
- b) **Daffodil planting** – Helen Fauss had suggested that perhaps the Volunteers could bring back daffodil planting to the downtown corridor as a way to beautify the Town. Merrell recommended looking at more sustainable plants such as tulips, irises, or poppies that do not require irrigation. Merrell will consult with Melanie Peratis on a native species plant that will work well with the Fairfax climate. Maria will speak with David Smadbeck of the Chamber of Commerce to see if they have any merchants willing to donate bulbs for planting, and to see if they have a preference for the flower type.
- c) **Boards & Commissions mixer** – Holly announced that every couple of years the Volunteer Board hosts a social event for all the Town's Boards and Commissions, in an effort to recognize the committees, and have new members meet each other. A proposed date of Thursday, May 2nd was suggested. Maria will check to see if the Women's Club is available on that date from 6-9 p.m. Additionally, Maria will compile a list of all the representatives from these commissions, as well as their e-mail addresses. The groups to be included are: Park & Rec, Open Space Committee, Tree Committee, Town Council, General Plan Implementation Committee (GPIC), Youth Commission, Measure F Oversight Committee, and Finance Committee (Treasurer). The Volunteers will provide the main course of the dinner, and the other representatives will be asked to bring an appetizer, salad, or dessert.
- d) **E-mail blast of upcoming events**- Merrell will send out an e-mail blast on the Constant Contact list serve later this week. Content will include the bee keeping workshop, Brewfest, egg hunt, and Ecofest information. Holly added that the theme of this year's Fairfax Festival will be "For the Love of Fairfax... Volunteer One Day Per Year". Maria will provide content for the egg hunt and Brewfest.

Old Business:

- a) **Nextdoor.com update**–Ted gave a brief overview of nextdoor.com, a private neighborhood website that has branched out to 8,000 towns and cities across the country. In Fairfax, 8 of the 13 neighborhoods in town have launched to date. There are a total of 10,000 residents that use the Fairfax zip code, in approximately 4,400 homes. Of these households, about 30-50% participate in the program. Ted also went on to describe the City Program, whereby nextdoor.com will create a special page for use by

Public Safety- Police, Fire, and Town Hall officials. These groups will be able to send out notifications in one broadcast. The information will be one way however, residents will not be able to correspond back with the agencies. Anya added that this program will be a great way to notify residents of future chipper days, and programs such as the in-home delivery of food bank items. Other components of nextdoor.com include a neighborhood watch program.

- b) Bee keeping seminar**- Holly announced that the Volunteers decided last month to co-sponsor this event with Sustainable Fairfax at the Women's Club on Saturday, March 2nd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More of these types of workshops may follow.

- c) Community garden** – This item was covered in the Treasurer's report. Merrell added that Sustainable Fairfax would like to plant a demonstration garden in the outdoor courtyard area of the Women's Club, adjacent to the patio. She thought some native plants would enhance the area. Additionally, Sustainable Fairfax would like to hold workshops on composting, pruning, and other educational gardening topics. Merrell requested this item be put on the Park & Rec agenda for consideration at the March 12th meeting. Maria will add this to the agenda.

- d) Trail marking**- Holly announced that the reflectors marking the trail on Upper Cypress to Medway have been removed by a nearby resident. The owner has put up Private Property- No Trespassing signs along the trail, which is a public easement. Holly is not sure how this issue should be addressed. Merrell suggested perhaps referring it to the Police Department for enforcement. Garrett responded he will meet with Mayor John Reed to familiarize himself with the trails, and then follow up with the Volunteer Board on how to proceed. The item will be re-addressed at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m.**