

**Minutes**  
**Volunteer Program Advisory Board**  
**October 28, 2013**  
**16 Park Road**

*Mission Statement: “To foster goodwill and community spirit in Fairfax through volunteer activities.”*

Members in attendance: Holly Bragman, Merrell Maschino, Ted Pugh, Mark Solomons, Helen Fauss, Maryann O’Sullivan. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator; Council Member Renee Goddard. Others in attendance: Melanie Peratis, Sierra Salin.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The minutes of the September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved with the following changes: Under the Creek Walk section, according to Mia Adler, the nature activities she offers are called **Bay Area Voyager**, which include creek walks for kids & adults ages 4-90, not 60, as previously stated.

**1. Reports**

- **Chair** – Holly announced that the Fire Department is available for CERT trainings.
- **Treasurer-** Mark announced the balance in the checkbook is currently \$2,478. A few outstanding checks totaling approximately \$1,000 have not cleared yet. Maria presented Mark with an additional \$200 in checks made out to the Volunteers, from pop-up tent rentals, and picnic contributions.
- **Coordinator** – Maria announced the Fairfax Bridge Rehabilitation Program is being launched, that affects 5 bridges in Town. A consultant is working on community outreach to the residents, and would like to enlist the help of the Volunteer Board in getting the word out through an e-mail blast. Merrell said she would be happy to send out an e-mail blast announcing the November 20<sup>th</sup> public workshop. The blast will go out in early November. Maria added that the Artist-in-Resident Matt Tasley is holding an art exhibit at the Pavilion loft on Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-10 p.m., and Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon – 10 p.m. His exhibit will also be publicized via the e-mail blast.
- **Discussion** –Maria added that Garrett received an inquiry as to necessary repairs on the trail at Forrest, notably the steps & railings. Holly stated we need volunteers to help with the maintenance of the trails program. Helen would like to see the trails program rejuvenated, and will work on forming a sub-committee.

Maryann announced that she would like to solicit more volunteers for the food bank that are willing to do home deliveries. She has commitment from Bob Mellon and Deborah O’Flynn. Melanie suggested she try Jodie Timm, & Francie

Bettinger as well. Helen also volunteered to drop off food items to homebound recipients once a month. Maria forwarded a contact to Maryann of a volunteer who is interested in being a driver, Walt Kassoway.

## 2. New Business

- a) **Lending library of china at Women's Club-** Renee Goddard requested that perhaps the current dishes, glasses, and silverware at the Women's Club could be rented by users at the Women's Club. She cited the Pt. Reyes program, which has an excellent collection of china & flatware for the public to rent out. She suggested expanding the program to include plates & mugs at the Pavilion. Maria noted the Pavilion does not have a dishwasher, and thus the items would have to be washed by hand after each use. Ted noted that eventually, a commercial dishwasher will be installed in the Pavilion. Maria added it makes sense to let renters of the Town's buildings use the items, but for people holding events outside of Town property, it would be difficult to inventory the items between uses, particularly since the Town does not have a facilities manager. She added that items might go missing, or break during transportation. Renee mentioned that Sustainable Fairfax has an intern working on the project of visiting thrift shops in search of additional mugs, etc. Renee added that even the corn-based recycled cups that are used for the Fairfax Festival and the picnic, do not actually get recycled, they are landfilled. The only recycled cups that can be recycled are the wax based cups that Marin Brewing Company uses. She suggested the various groups look at using those in the future, as part of the Town's zero waste recycling goals.
- b) **Fairfax Gardener's Alliance-** Melanie Peratis announced a new group is being formed to deal with landscaping issues downtown. Many of the plants that were put in a few years back have not been maintained. This new group is sponsored by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, and will focus on downtown beautification. It will also include power washing, weeding, and mulching to improve the downtown corridor, particularly near the Fair Anselm Shopping Center.
- c) **Holiday party-**Maria announced she has reserved the Women's Club for Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> for the Volunteer's annual holiday caroling, wreathmaking & potluck. The event will be held from 2-5 p.m. A sub-committee consisting of Holly, Helen, & Maria was formed. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at the Youth Center. The holiday crafts fair is on December 14<sup>th</sup>, and the Manor Winter Fair is on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Clippings from the school will be used towards the wreath making. Melanie offered to help oversee the wreathmaking. Holly added that Deidre Rogers will once again run an Amnesty International letter writing opportunity at the event.
- d) **Holiday recognition-** Holly announced she would like to acknowledge Jen Jones this holiday season, for her countless contribution to the Volunteers event through

production of many, many signs. She will be recognized at the holiday party, and a gift will be provided to thank her for her service.

### **3.Old Business-**

- a. Chipper day highlights** – Helen Fauss announced 142 residents participated in chipper days over the course of the two weekends. The first event on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> saw 50 cars, which dropped off a total of 5 tons of waste. The second event was even more successful, with 92 vehicles, dropping off another 7 tons of brush. She added that Deer Park had the highest level of participants, with Tamalpais/Scenic coming in second. The downtown district had the next highest level of participation, and Cascade had the lowest, this time around. Helen, Denny Ferry, and Ted volunteered to greet participants, and surveyed how residents found out about the program. The following forms of publicity were listed in order of most impactful: Mailers in the garbage bill, large signs around town, media (IJ & Ross Valley Reporter), nextdoor.com website, the Town’s website & Volunteers e-mail blast, and flyers that were distributed in the neighborhood. Helen added that she would like an official Fire Council to be formed in Town, with the goal of acquiring additional fire grant monies. Francis Kibbe, a resident whose home burned down a few years ago, is interested in being on this committee.
- b. Griefwalker film at the Women’s Club:** Sierra Salin attended the meeting to request the showing of the film *Griefwalker*, a movie that deals with death and grieving. He would like to present it on Friday, January 24, 2014 at 6 p.m., and then have a discussion following the movie. **ACTION ITEM: The Volunteer Board voted to support the showing of *Griefwalker*.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Youth Center.