

Minutes
Volunteer Program Advisory Board
July 25, 2016
Youth Center
16 Park Road

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

Members in attendance: Holly Bragman, Geo Taylor, Marcia Custer, Glenn Michelson. Staff in attendance: Maria Baird, Community Resources Coordinator. Others in attendance: Rochelle Edwards, Cristof Bessler, Council Member John Reed

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1) **Reports**

- **Chair** –Geo introduced Rochelle Edwards of Taste, who will be speaking on Restorative Justice. He also added that Peter Anderson is interested in joining the Volunteer Board.
- **Treasurer-** Maria announced the checking account balance is \$6,724.90.
- **Coordinator** –Maria inquired as to whether Cristof, a food bank volunteer, is interested in joining the Board. Cristof replied he needs to see what his upcoming work schedule is regarding his availability, before he can commit.
- **Discussion** – Holly stated Jenny Jackson will attend a future meeting and is perhaps interested in serving on the Board.

2) **New Business**

- a. **Restorative Justice-** Rochelle Edwards has been working for the past 16 years with people in the prison system. She is a former psychotherapist, and now owns Taste Restaurant in town, with her partner, Lorenzo. Rochelle began working with San Quentin prisoners in 2000, and developed a program for incarcerated fathers who wanted to connect with their children. Restorative Justice is both a philosophy and a movement. She has worked with lifers with the possibility of parole, and found that these men wanted to connect with their own lives, and are often introspective of what made them make the choice to commit their crimes. She started a Victim/Offender dialogue, where the prisoners would meet with their victims, and found it was therapeutic for both parties. These programs have grown through the state of California. The idea behind Restorative Justice is that punishment is not effective in rehabilitation. Rochelle cited a program in New Zealand where the Maoris have been successful in closing down many prisons, due to community engagement with young people who were in trouble, and rehabilitating them rather than punishing them. She has also been working with Mike Daly, Chief Probation Officer at the County of Marin.

Furthermore, she is involved with Veterans healing Veterans. She thought Fairfax would be a good community to bring awareness of restorative justice to the public. She is particularly interested in helping families reconnect. Another issue is how sex offenders can fit back into the community, and be able to reside in a town without being ostracized from society. Geo stated the Volunteers could offer their blessing, public outreach via the e-mail blasts, and use of Town facilities for meeting space. He asked Rochelle to create an outline and re-visit the Volunteer Board with specific tasks on this project.

- b. **Bank of American account resolution** - The bank is requiring the Board submit minutes removing Mark Solomons as Treasurer of the Volunteer Board, in order to transfer his signature authority to Geo. **ACTION ITEM: Holly made a motion to remove Mark Solomons as Treasurer of the Volunteer Board.** The motion was seconded, and all members voted in favor of that action. Marcia offered to serve as the new Treasurer. **ACTION ITEM: Geo made a motion for Marcia Custer to be appointed Treasurer.** Glenn seconded, all voted in favor. **Marcia offered a motion that she and Geo will be the two authorized members of the Volunteer Board to be listed as signers on the Bank of America bank account, and that Holly Bragman's name should be taken off the account.** All members voted in favor of that action. Maria will prepare the minutes and get them to Holly to bring to the bank, so the bank can prepare new signature cards.
- c. **Finalize financial report.** - Geo distributed two documents Maria prepared regarding the Volunteers finances. The first is a breakdown of the Town provided budget, which was \$3,100 this year. This money was used for advertising (website maintenance, electronic newsletter), special events such as supplies for creek clean-up, the picnic and holiday caroling, and the Volunteers recognition awards ceremony. The second budget provided a list of deposits and checks from the Volunteers checking account for the past two years. These categories included community garden fees, sponsorships for the picnic, tent rental income, and donations. The outgoing categories were the water bill to the County library for the community garden, reimbursements to Board members who had paid for event supplies such as the Seder, Town-wide picnic, holiday wreathmaking/potluck, and donations to charitable organizations.

3) Old Business

- a) **Finalize fiscal sponsorship-** After some discussion, the group agreed it would make sense to go under the auspices of Marin Link at this time. The Volunteers can continue trying to regain their non-profit status with the IRS in the future. **MOTION: Geo made a motion for the Fairfax Volunteers to join the network of non-profits supported by Marin Link for one year, Holly seconded, all members voted in favor.**

- b) **Schedule events for the year-** Maria announced she has reserved the ballfield for the town-wide picnic for Sunday, September 18th. Holly will be out of town that date. She encouraged the Board to move forward with the specified date for the picnic. Maria asked the group if she could request that Taste cater the picnic again this year, the group agreed it would love to have Taste be the caterer. She also inquired as to the band situation, whether the Volunteers should hire Revolver or Tom Finch. Geo suggested she reach out to Melanie Peratis for her recommendation. Maria will follow up. The banner across Sir Francis Drake has been reserved for advertising. The next meeting will focus on the picnic. Maria will begin soliciting sponsorship funding and goods for the picnic. The holiday caroling event is set for Sunday, December 11th, from 2-5 p.m. The Women's Club has been reserved for this event. **ACTION ITEM: Marcia made a motion to approve the subject dates, Glenn seconded, all members voted in favor.**
- c) **Chipper Day update** –Maria distributed a flyer on chipper days. They will be held as follows: Saturday, August 6th from 9-3 at the corner of Olema & Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Saturday, August 13th from 9-3 at the Pavilion parking lot; Saturday, September 10th from 9-3 at Doc Edgar Park, and Saturday, September 24th at Deer Park parking lot. Maria added that Youth 2 Work, the same contractor as last year, will conduct the chipper days, using the Ross Valley Fire Department truck. Additionally, they will be advertised with a banner hung across Sir Francis Drake Blvd. for two weeks in August, and two weeks in September. Lastly, she is having large road signs made up in the neighborhoods the week prior to the chipper days to ensure residents are notified of the events. Marcia noted she had met with Helen Fauss, about how much better participating was when there was a door-to-door pick up program. Maria explained that was through a grant from the United States Department of Forestry, administered by the California Fire Safe Council, back in 2010-2011. Those funds have now been used to fight wildfires in the state for the last 4-5 years and the grants are no longer available. The group suggested getting the public to attend Town Council meetings to voice their concerns about fire safety.
- d) **Updates-** Council Member John Reed stated that the Fairbuck currency is being phased out by the Chamber of Commerce. The coins will be donated to the Bicycle Museum, who will sell them as souvenirs. He said the Chamber of Commerce is willing to donate some to the Volunteer Board. Maria suggested they could be used as prizes for the games at the picnic; Geo added they could be given as gifts to volunteers at future recognition ceremonies.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 22nd.