

Friends of South Slough Reserve, Inc.

*P. O. Box 5446
Charleston, Oregon 97420*

President Valerie Cooley called the FOSS board meeting to order on October 25, 2011 at 5:00 in the ECOS lab building at OIMB. Lonnie Mays, Sue Cameron, Dave Lunde, Deborah Rudd and Pat McKillip attended; Robin Elledge sat in for Mike Graybill.

VISITORS: Harriett Egy

SPECIAL VISITOR: Jennifer Groth, on the board of the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum, has been speaking to various local groups about the new 11,000 square-foot facility being built on the Coos Bay waterfront to replace the old museum in Simpson Park. The new building will be 5000 feet larger; it will have more room for volunteers, groups of children, as well as for parking buses. The site is being filled now to raise it above the flood plain; geo-technical engineers will measure the “settle” of the fill in 3 to 6 months to determine if more fill is needed. Jennifer presented a rendering of the new building approved by the planning committee. There will be a plaza to the south of it, a parking lot to the north and large windows in the two-story building providing an excellent view of the bay. The first floor will house the exhibit hall, a community hall, the gift store and a welcome gallery in the lobby. Both the lobby and the community hall will be available for events. The second floor will hold the archives, a work area, and an exhibit bridge to look down into the exhibit hall. Pictures of the old waterfront were studied in an effort to maintain the historical flavor of the site. The total cost will be around 7.5 million, of which half has been raised, including a million in grants. The architects designed bronze survey markers that will be placed near the entrance of the new museum to honor contributors of \$500. Larger donations will be appreciated with stairs named after donors, or windows, benches, exhibit cases and galleries, etc. All donors will have their names included on a donor board inside the lobby. Jennifer handed out brochures describing the new museum and encouraging potential donors to add their names to the project.

AGENDA AND MINUTES: Motions were made and passed to approve both this meeting’s agenda and last month’s minutes.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Since Heather was unable to attend, Deborah passed out a brief Profit and Loss sheet for National Estuaries Day and the FLOW fundraiser. A motion was made to delay voting on last month’s treasurer’s report until Heather could return and answer any questions about it.

BOOKSTORE COMMITTEE: Dave requested the usual \$1500 for bookstore expenses. Valerie said the amount should be increased to add merchandise for the Christmas season. Sue suggested requesting \$3000 to cover the months of November and December, since the IC will be closed part of December for repairs and the aquarium installation. A motion was so made and passed. Valerie suggested that a Christmas sale should be advertised to encourage the public to come and buy presents at the IC.

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Publicity Committee: Deborah talked about the Estuary 101 classes to be held on October 29th and November 5th for volunteers to learn the basics of the South Slough, its cultural history and how it became an Estuarine Reserve. The class will be followed by others specifically geared to teach volunteers what needs to be done and let them find their areas of interest. A second class, taught by Jake Robinson, will focus on the forests of the South Slough. He offered his time and expertise at the cost of a free membership and cookies. A motion was made and enthusiastically passed to donate a free FOSS membership to Jake.

MEMBERSHIPS: Sue said that the FOSS memberships were doing fine but “the computer stinks”, though she has grown used to coping with its crotchety ways.

HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST: Lonnie reminded Sue that FOSS’s new computer has QuickBooks and the latest data base all set up; she should be able to use that for memberships instead of the exasperating EBASE program. He will work with Sue to customize the new database to meet Sue’s needs. He also noted that Heather could use the new laptop in FOSS meetings if she wants. Lonnie passed around copies of a generic, all-purpose donor thank you form letter for NED and other occasions. He said that he needs to go through the FOSS file cabinet to scan documents into the computer, which, given the overflowing files, will probably be a 6 to 12 months project. Eventually the laptop will replace the old computer at the FOSS desk. Deborah recommended making a sign-up sheet for the laptop, also alerting the board by e-mail if anyone takes it home. Sue wondered if the old computer would disappear; Lonnie said that it wouldn’t be going anywhere any time soon, for those who might want to continue using it.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: As Nicole was unable to attend, there was no Development Committee report.

OLD BUSINESS: ESTUARY DAY

Further thoughts about Estuary Day were discussed. Deborah thought that the various events were too spread out; visitors weren’t always aware of what was going on when. Robin mentioned that the crabbing event she did with Tom Gaskill wound up running an hour beyond its allotted time, during which people came and watched and went. She suggested spreading out along the dock and into the boat building if that venue is chosen again; the entire Hollering Point area was too large, and on that day, too windy and wet for comfortable wandering. Deborah asked how board members felt about doing the fundraiser on the same day as NED. On the whole everyone seemed to like it. Sue asked about the difficulties of hauling equipment from the IC. Deborah said she could have used more help with packing, carrying, moving, etc. Parking was easier at Hollering Point than at the IC, and the venue did attract a good turnout. Lonnie queried The World not advertising NED in its weekly events column; Deborah said that other media, like radio stations, did a better job at repeated advertising. Valerie suggested finding children to be “town criers” during NED, going around and announcing the start of different events. Deborah commented that doing the two events back to back made for a long day

A non-profit organization dedicated to public education about estuaries

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for everyone, but that FOSS, not South Slough staff, worked the fundraiser, which made it easier for her.

NEW BUSINESS

THE AMERICORPS CREW: Robin reminded the board that the Aerators crew will be at the South Slough from November 4th to December 16th, working on the 10 minute trail, clearing out brush around the IC, helping finish the oyster studies, etc. Nate will have them weeding and setting up garden plots for spring. There will be six women and five men staying in the yurts at Spruce Ranch. She asked if FOSS could do some potlucks or lunches for them at the IC. A twelfth person, Kileen Mitchel, the new Vista volunteer starting on November 21st will also be staying at Spruce Ranch since she has not yet found housing for herself and her dog. Deborah suggested that a FOSS member or one of the South Slough staff could do something with her now and then, a wine walk or an art walk maybe, to make her feel more at home. Valerie suggested donating treats to the dog as well. Robin said that Vista volunteers are expected to live in or near poverty level; they can accept anything—such as a free bed at Spruce Ranch, a gift card, or a meal—except money. Kileen will be helping with the Aquaria project, training people to care for the tanks.

IC MAINTENANCE/CLOSURE DATES: Robin said that a mandate from the government requires the South Slough to take more unpaid furlough dates. To avoid confusion, the IC will be closed on the Saturdays following Friday furlough dates; this will include the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. The IC will also be closed 10-14 days in December for general maintenance, including painting, refinishing floors, cleaning carpets, as well as for the installation of the aquarium exhibit. Deborah said that the upcoming newsletter will list all closing dates for 2011 and 2012. Dave commented that Saturday closures might cut down on sales, since it is a good shopping day. Valerie suggested letting the public know that the IC closures are not by choice but by government mandate. Lonnie pointed out that the public can still come and use the trails, even when the IC is closed. Deborah and Robin suggested putting inserts in the newsletters or sending out flyers listing the bookstore's open hours.

AQUARIA PROJECT: Since Tom Gaskill was unable to attend, Robin talked about the project. She said there will be a shed outside the entry for the water pumps; that bit of the project will need plans as well as an architect to ensure a very secure system for the fish and the tank pumps. The log holding up the porch also needs to be replaced, which will require an architect, plans, and about \$10,000. A log cut down by Pacific Power near Hinch Road will be stripped and shaped to replace the defective log; the work will be done during the December closing dates.

A move was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 22, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. at the OIMB ECOS Lab.

Minutes submitted by Patricia McKillip, FOSS Secretary