

**Friends of Camp Mather Monthly Meeting  
Open Meeting Minutes  
February 7, 2024**

<u>IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>GUESTS</u>
Jim Angelus	Hana Jue	Sydney Angel (Camp Asst. Manager)
Maria Balestrieri (Corresponding Secretary)		Neil Fahy (Camp Naturalist)
Phil Enis		Tom Graham (Camp Naturalist)
Bob Frantz		Catherine Grove
Midge Lingvai (Acting Treasurer)		Michelle Lever (Week 4 Volunteer Leader)
Joe Litehiser (Recording Secretary)		Linda Litehiser
Brent Sleeper (President)		Claudia Reinhart (Camp Store Manager)
John Steddin		Richard Tarlov
		Mike von der Porten (Week 7 Volunteer Leader)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, quorum is confirmed.

Maria Balestrieri makes, Bob Frantz seconds, a motion to approve the January 10, 2023, meeting minutes as amended, to be posted on the FoCM website. The motion carries.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

Board President Brent Sleeper outlined the agenda for the balance of the open meeting, giving time for introduction of, and any comments by, new Board members, Jim Angelus and John Steddin, as well as by any meeting guests. Highlights of ongoing FoCM contributions to the 2024 Camp Mather Centennial year and this year’s T-shirt logo design are the focus of much of the rest of this open meeting. Brent noted that, pending any concerns by the Board, in future the monthly Treasurer’s report will be moved to the closed Board meeting.

GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

New FoCM Board member John Steddin, in addition to the work he has led on a 2024 FoCM T-shirt logo is looking forward to contributing and helping in any way that he can.

Jim Angelus shared some of his work background in the retail food industry, most recently with his own businesses at several venues including at SFO and Cole Valley. He is an active participant in community service volunteering in his Cole Valley neighborhood and with his children's schools. Jim is married and has two teenage daughters. And like John, Jim is looking to contribute to FoCM's support of Camp Mather in any way he can.

Neil Fahy is looking forward to returning to Camp Mather this summer to do some new things with the SFRPD Naturalist Program.

Tom Graham, the other SFRPD Camp Naturalist, has been giving some thought and volunteer time with Camp Assistant Manager, Sydney Angel and others, to plans for Camp Centennial. Some of them will be discussed later in this meeting.

Linda Litehiser continues to oversee work to replace cabin curtains up at Camp with a group of volunteer sewers. Her goal is to have at least one set of curtains for every cabin. In addition, she helps Recording Secretary, Joe Litehiser, with whatever he needs done for Camp.

Long-time Camp Mather guest and FoCM supporter, Richard Tarlov, is volunteering this year to bring to the operation of the Camp Mather General Store his years of experience owning and operating the natural food grocery Canyon Market in Glen Park.

Catherine Grove, attending her first FoCM meeting, after talking to several Board members earlier, is interested in learning more about FoCM's work on behalf of Camp Mather and how she might contribute to some of these efforts in the future.

Michelle Lever joined the meeting to say hello and learn a little more about FoCM. Michelle is our Volunteer Leader for Week 4 this summer.

Sydney Angel, SFRPD's Assistant Manager at Camp, gave an update on the Department's efforts to recruit their staff for the upcoming 2024 summer sessions. Ryan Donnelly of SFRPD has identified three websites where employment opportunities for Camp staff could be posted. Camp management would like FoCM to underwrite one-month postings on each of these three sites. SFRPD, through Camp management, is working with Tom Graham and others on ideas to commemorate the Centennial. One idea is to burn a Centennial logo into a disc of wood for Camp guests as memorabilia. SFRPD Policy and Public Affairs Division is working on a logo for this purpose, and actual fabrication of the iron brand to use is estimated to cost a few hundred dollars. FoCM could be asked to underwrite this. Brent promised that FoCM would take these requests and others that might arise under consideration. Midge confirmed that FoCM had agreed to fund replacement of ice/water dispensers for the Jack Spring dining hall, and is awaiting final selection of the units to be ordered. In answer to a question from Maria Balestrieri, Sydney advised that Week 1 would be a split week in 2024 with two short sessions Sunday to Wednesday and Wednesday to Saturday with a short four hour turnaround on the Saturday between Sessions 1 and 2 of week 1. This replaced the Week 11 split week of 2023 and is a continuing experiment to make Camp available to guests who might be unable to commit to a full week.

Phil Enis noted that Mike von der Porten was also a guest in the meeting, and thanked him for agreeing to be the FoCM Week 7 Volunteer Leader.

## PREVIEW OF CENTENNIAL AND T-SHIRT IDEAS

Tom Graham reviewed some ideas that he and others have been thinking about to commemorate the 2024 Centennial Anniversary of Camp Mather. John Steddin reviewed his progress developing a FoCM logo for 2024 for use with our T-shirts and possibly other merchandise.

Tom summarized informal discussions between himself, Neil Fehy, Sidney, Camp Manager Toby Wiley, Store Manager Claudia Reinhart (able to join tonight's meeting by phone from Groveland), and Brent and a few others. Paramount from these early discussions is recognition that a Centennial Committee be established to decide which ideas should be pursued, and of those which would be by FoCM, which by SFRPD, and which would be jointly carried out/funded. Brent pointed out that definition of this and other committees would be taken up next according to this meeting's agenda. Insofar and any recommendations of this or other committees required full FoCM BoD approval they would be brought before the full Board during regular meetings.

Among ideas for consideration are:

- A 100th Anniversary Banner at the Camp entrance.
- A Centennial metal plaque on a boulder, perhaps in front of the office.
- A picnic in the City in advance of Camp opening to publicize the Centennial.
- Some weekly event at Camp to make the Centennial year special to Camp guests.
- Printing and selling a Centennial calendar.
- Postcards

Tom presented drafts of language for the plaque, and mock-ups for the banner, calendar, and postcards. He looks forward to getting together with members of what will become the Centennial Committee to decide which of these and/or other ideas to pursue, their costs, and timeline and to bring their recommendations to the full FoCM Board at its March meeting.

John Steddin reviewed his work resulting in a number of potential FoCM T-shirt logos. He published a website notice of a contest to submit a logo covering the posting cost himself. The winner has been promised a honorarium of \$75. So far he has received over 220 submissions. He showed several, including his favorite. After general discussion during which details of one draft logo or another were evaluated it was decided to give the responsibility of selection of a few favorites, for both the T-shirt and hat, to the Store Committee. These selections would then be brought to the full Board for final selection. Finally, questions of FoCM and/or SFRPD logo(s), where each would be incorporated in Centennial merchandise/memorabilia, and where the task of final selection for recommendation to the full Board with SFRPD concurrence would lie are matters to be resolved by the Store and Centennial Committees to be empaneled soon enough to reach consensus before the March 6<sup>th</sup> Full FoCM BoD meeting.

## COMMITTEES

Brent presented his outline of committees to carry out some of the very important work of FoCM between full BoD meetings. This should allow in-depth discussions among Committee members, comprising both Board members and others whose expertise and interest in Camp Mather can most efficiently be tapped without the confines of the usual one and one-half-to-two hour full Board meeting, and leaving final decisions involving FoCM policy and finances up to the full Board as required by its bylaws under its 501 (c) (3) charter.

Proposed Committee structure and personnel are based in substantial part on FoCM standing committees of the past several years with the addition of this year's unique ad hoc Centennial Committee. These are: Business, Digital Strategy, Operation, and Community Engagement. As before, the Store Committee is a subcommittee under the Business Committee. This is because so many of the decisions about merchandise, staff, inventory, and scheduling have important financial implications for the overall FoCM revenues and costs. In view of its unique function only for 2024 the Centennial Committee is designated as ad hoc. Acceptance of the above Committee structure for 2024 was moved by Midge Lingvai and seconded by Maria Balestrieri. The motion passed.

Preliminarily, Committee personnel agreed on are: Business (Chair, Midge Lingvai, other members, Maria Balestrieri, Bob Frantz...); Digital Strategy (Chair, Brent Sleeper, other members, John Steddin, Midge...); Operations (Chair, Phil Enis, other members, Bob Frantz, Hana Jue...); Community Engagement (Chair, Joe Litehiser, other members, Maria , Phil, Linda Litehiser...). Store (Chair, Midge, other members, Claudia Reinhart, Richard Tarlov, John, Jim Angelus...); Centennial (Suggested Chair, Hana Jue, other members, Tom Graham, Sydney Angel, Joe, Claudia). As FoCM BoD president, Brent is an ex officio member of all committees.

## DISCUSSION

Claudia was able to join the meeting by phone through Tom Graham's Zoom connection. She gave the Board an update of Store staff recruitments. There are currently thirteen candidates to interview. Any additional applicants will be considered through February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Actual interviews are scheduled to take place on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Bob Frantz' house. Claudia will be joined during the interviews by Bob and Jim Angelus. Claudia also expressed support for the idea as posed by Tom Graham of a picnic/party in the City as a fun kick-off event for the Centennial. Sydney Angel has agreed to take the lead on this on behalf of SFRPD. Finally, and for clarification, SFRPD will also take the lead on the branding of log slices by SFRPD personnel for Camp guests. Mike von der Porten recommended that this be done at Camp in order that guests could watch the process.

Finally, Joe asked that for the record these minutes note that Hana Jue had in fact been voted to continue as a Board member during the January meeting, curing her unintentional omission from the original slate of Directors. This correction was accepted without objection.

## CLOSE OF OPEN SESSION

Brent Sleeper called for adjournment of the February 7<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting of the FoCM Board of Directors at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, at 7 pm, by Zoom.

