

Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Task Force  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 21, 2024; 10:30-12pm CAC Room B

1. Call to Order and Determination of a Quorum  
Joel Butterworth, Pat Parson, Bruce Hartsough, Lesli Lee, Marie Kay Hansen, Carolyn Greene, and Karen Cotter attending
2. Adoption of Amended Agenda
  - a. Item 4e "Winter Wonderland on the Plaza/tree decorating" was moved to become Item 7 when Barnee Alexander would be present.
  - b. Joel moved; Carolyn seconded; adopted 7-0
3. Approval of 9/16/24 Minutes
  - a. Carolyn moved; Marie Kay seconded; approved 6-0 with one abstention.
  - b. Bruce offered to serve as minute-taker again today.
4. Continuing Project updates
  - a. **Adopt-a-Creek** (Pat, Joel):
    - i. Eleven projects were initiated to address fire hazard and erosion); not all were worked on and one approval was held back after dredging that did not occur this season.
    - ii. There was much positive progress; now the work is wrapped up for this year.
    - iii. Some learnings about hired workers removing in Coney Creek doing things differently than Pat and Joel recommended (how far up the bank, etc.).  
**[ACTION ITEM]:** Joel to send the reports and pictures to Lesli, Pat, Christel, and Todd.
  - b. **Waste management** – "Reduce and Reuse" campaign (Lesli, Pat, Marie Kay, Carolyn)
    - i. Lesli has been working with Todd O'Donnell, OVA's Operations Manager.
    - ii. All common OVA areas that are subject to reservations through Anita are now equipped with recycling and compost containers.
    - iii. Indoor areas (Berger, East and West Rec.) were addressed earlier in 2024; recently outdoor areas (West Rec. picnic, East Rec. picnic and CAC patio) have been provided for.  
**Request:** please spread the word among club/group events.
    - iv. Lesli submitted a brief Oakmont News article with a photo for the Oct 26<sup>th</sup> issue.
    - v. A Best practices/Recommendations for Waste Management in Oakmont document has been started.  
**[Action Item]:** Further comments/suggested edits from anyone else

are still welcome.

**Goal:** to have this doc "completed" for distribution at the New Resident reception on Thursday Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm and eventually in the Welcome Binder.

- vi. The political signs are all landfill, no matter the triangle on the back.
  - 1. Recology will take them, and we can also reuse them here (for example on the Garden Tour).
  - 2. The metal stands cannot be recycled if they are more than 5" and sharp pointed.
  - 3. A team needs to brainstorm how to gather them after the election and a place to store pending disposition:

**[Action Item]:** Carolyn, Mary Kay, Bruce, and Lesli volunteered. They will coordinate with Christel.

c. **Land Regeneration through Art and Cultural Awareness** (Pat, Lesli)

- i. Native Plant Demo Garden (Pat)
  - 1. Pat is still tending the seedlings until weather is conducive to transplanting.
- ii. Native Grasses Demo Garden (Pat, Lesli)
  - 1. Pat and Lesli met to stake the area which will serve as a demo as to where grass seeds should be placed.
  - 2. They will experiment with re-propagating seeds, and will be seeking consultation from those who have experience planting from seed.
- iii. Land acknowledgement placard (Pat)
  - 1. Pat consulted with Greg Sarris (Pomo Tribal Chairman) on doing a proper acknowledgement for tribes that resided in this area (Mishewal, Pomo, and Coast Miwok who came here to trade for obsidian).
  - 2. Pat is writing a proposal for SSU to include students in researching history and helping with writing the acknowledgement and providing art for the permanent placard.

d. **Oak Restoration** (Carolyn, Marie Kay, Karen, Lesli; Carol Pence, Giselle M)

- i. The Oaks are doing well.
- ii. Carolyn and Giselle did the most recent watering, which took 59 minutes.
- iii. Very few white oak acorns this year, so we are glad that we had a masting year last year.
- iv. Not much more to do this year, all of the oaks are out of the tubes.

e. **Task Force Logo discussion** (Karen)

- i. Lesli reported that our new name is officially 'Oakmont Environmental Stewardship Operational Task Force' after an email vote resulted in:
  - 1. Keep Oakmont in title (Joel, Pat, Karen, Lesli, Marie Kay) [5 votes]
  - 2. Omit Oakmont from title (Bruce) [1 vote]

- 3. Neutral or no vote (Carolyn) [1]
  - ii. Karen presented a nice looking logo produced by Jeff Zalles.
  - iii. The group unanimously, enthusiastically, and gratefully endorsed.
  
- f. **“How to Make Suggested Edits and Comments”** on our documents
  - i. Lesli started a Google Doc on our shared Google Drive
  - ii. She thanked Bruce, Pat, and Marie Kay for their input.
  
- g. **Home Efficiency & Electrification Recommendations document** (Lesli, Karen)
  - i. Hoping to provide this at the New Resident reception on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. **[ACTION ITEM]:** Karen to follow up with Christel.
  
- 5. November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting**
  - a. Need a leader and Minute taker while Lesli is traveling.
  - b. There had been some discussion of canceling either the November meeting or the December meeting.
  - c. All members agreed that we should not cancel both meetings and would like to hold the November meeting.
  - d. Asked for a volunteer to lead the meeting and for one to take the minutes.
  - e. Joel volunteered to lead, Karen to take the minutes, and Bruce to host the Zoom call.
  
- 6. Looking ahead at the next 6 months** - Group discussion
  - a. Lesli asked if anyone would be interested in writing an Oakmont News article in the very near future
    - i. Karen has written an article on home electrification for ESTF.
    - ii. She is working with George McKinney and Terrie Mui (the new leader for Futures Club) on an in-person educational event scheduled for Tues. Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the East Rec Center.
    - iii. We will aim for one article every other month on one of our four main topics: land/plants, energy, waste, and water.
  
  - b. ESTF is considering hosting a Water-themed event aiming for March 2025.
    - i. Lesli has started a brainstorming document.
    - ii. Requested volunteers to help with this in-person event. (Bruce, Marie Kay, and probably others)
    - iii. Lesli will aim to start the planning process for the event in Dec/Jan, after she returns from her trip.
  
  - c. New project – a 2025 Habitat Garden Tour close to Earth Day. (Carolyn)

7. **Winter Wonderland on the Plaza** (Carolyn, Barnee Alexander)
  - a. Barnee covered the \$75 cost and bought LED lights.
  - b. Already gathering non-recyclable pens, ChapStick holders, and Refresh bottles.
  - c. We will target an Oakmont news article and an educational piece for the tree itself.
  
8. **New business:**
  - a. Update to Charter
    - i. If not done sooner, we plan to amend it during our annual review in May or June 2025.
    - ii. To modify sooner: our name change and that the Task Force reports to Christel Antone.
  - b. Pat has produced a resource document for people and links.
    - i. Will add the volunteer form and the link to the "What Goes Where" page at Recology.
  
9. **Next meeting(s):** November 18<sup>th</sup> with Joel leading, Karen taking the minutes, and Bruce hosting the Zoom call if the meeting is held by Zoom.

The Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting is canceled.