

Land Stewardship Committee Meeting

March 24, 2017

Minutes

Attendees: Vic Amoroso, Jody Angel, Janine Aroyan, Ken Masterton, Genie McNaughton, Meg Simonds

Absent: Jack Siedman (excused), Mickey Murch, Tish Brown

Agenda

1. Paths on the land

The paths are a mess, gullies all the way down the slope, but where the culvert was cleaned out near the goat farm, things look better

Don Smith has suggested that the only permanent solution would be a hardened path, namely asphalt, or some other long-lasting more natural surface. Would cost \$70K to do this along all of the bike path. How can we do this?

ACTION: Janine will contact Don and tell him we will draft questions and then invite him to a meeting.

A little history: the original project cost \$40K, using a Bike to Schools grant. Should we approach them again? The organization is called saferoutestschool.org

(ACTION: Genie will call them.)

Is there any money for maintenance in the BCPUD budget? Yes, there is about \$3200 this year.

(ACTION: Vic will check on this – he did and there is money in this year’s budget.)

What about next year? And was all the money spent? If not, can it be rolled over? The BCPUD budget committee needs a letter – could be an email – from the LSC about the need to include this item in next year’s budget.

(ACTION: Genie will send an email to Vic, cc to Jennifer, asking that the budget item be continued, that the unspent fund should roll over to the next year and made an item in the budget going forward.)

Maintenance of the path is too much for one person, and that person needs to be a self-starter. A suggestion was to ask Rob Lenhoff if he would be interested in the work. And if he would be interested in working with Oscar.

(ACTION: get in touch with Rob at Betterviewlandscape.com- WHO WILL DO THIS?)

Upon further discussion (the estimated \$70K price tag is a real no-starter), the idea was brought up to harden only the sloping part of the path and bring the flat areas back to level with soil. That might bring the cost of the project down.

We could use some advice from someone who knows something about how to build trails. Janine reminded Genie that she agreed to contact the Sonoma County soil morphologist to ask if he could make a site visit. Janine sent Genie his contact information.

(ACTION: Genie will call the soil morphologist.)

2. Knoll broom pull (part two)

Flyer that Genie made is OK, but better to have more of a view of the activities of last month. And put the information about refreshments on the top of the copy. And correct the date (4/23, not 4/24). Two weeks before the event, put notice in the Hearsay and print out about 15 posters to put up around town.

(ACTION: Genie will use other picture(s) and rearrange the copy.)

3. CalFire Project and potential to include cotoneaster removal

Jennifer will be writing up the scope of work for the project that is due to the agency in late 2017. Work will not start till 2018. The LSC will be asked to advise on the project and mark any natives.

(ACTION: Genie will meet with Jennifer and Anita to walk the area to determine whether the stand of cotoneaster on the periphery of the knoll can be considered part of the project.)

4. Finance

The BCC sent a check to the BCPUD representing the donations to the LSC project in the amount of \$1530 (90% of \$1700). Meg thought the BCC hadn't included a check; Christina Cuhna was able to find the deposit of an additional \$270 (90% of \$300). The total amount should be \$1800. The LSC owes \$500 to Judith Lerner for 10 hours of work on a planting plan for the knoll and her presentation to the LSC.

(ACTION: Meg will ask Jennifer to write a check for \$500 to Judith.)

[Janine asked if Judith could provide a plant list. We had her plan in hand and realized that she had included a list. Judith has told the LSC that she would be willing to donate plants. Meg reminded us that we want to include plants in the knoll that are pollinator friendly.]

5. Soil Testing

At the last meeting, Jody and Genie had agreed to contact two organizations, LGEAN and UC Extension, to find out about testing the soil on the farmed land below the treatment ponds for contaminants such as heavy metals, synthetic organic chemicals or pesticides. Jody found the LGEAN site, but didn't find it to be very helpful. Genie contacted UC Extension and was to be called back. That didn't happen so she will call again

NEXT MEETING: April 28 at 3:00