

Land Stewardship Committee

Meeting minutes 4/28/2017

Attendees: Vic Amoroso, Med Simonds, Tish Brown, Ken Masterson, Jody Angel

Absent: Janine Aroyan (called re: absence), Mickey Murch

Resigned: Jack Siedman

Agenda

The Bicycle Path

Funds (\$3200) for next fiscal year, starting on July 1, 2017, were requested and put into the budget. There was a question as to whether unexpended funds could be rolled over. The answer is no. How much money has been spent this year to date? \$530. That means that there is \$2670 that could be spent on path maintenance, but it must be spent between now and June 30, 2017 the end of this fiscal year. Funds cannot be spent on improvement (adding material to the paths, for example). The Board should make the decision about maintenance activities. Which are the best places to focus on, given the damage that resulted from this winter's rain? Some ideas: 1) The lower part of the path, parallel to Olema-Bolinas Road is covered by eroded soil. 2) The shrubs need to be cut at the blind curve below the goat farm, as the path heads down the hill, where it makes a sharp turn. How should the LSC participate?

Time is short and we need to find someone who can do the work. Rob Lenhoff? Don Murch?

ACTION: Janine should talk to Don, take a walk along the path with him if possible and ask him to come to the next meeting to share his ideas with the Committee.

In the long-term, saferoutestoschools.org, the organization through which the original funding was obtained for the bicycle path, still exists, but it will take some research time to follow the links to find information about what, if any, funding is available to help pay for a more permanent path cover. A fully hard path is probably beyond the scope, but perhaps hardening in certain vulnerable areas would be feasible.

ACTION: Genie has made contact with Scott Brown (Balance Hydrologics), a soil erosion expert. He will talk with his colleagues about the possibility of coming out to the land, walking it with us and coming up with general guidelines for preventing or reducing erosion. This is a smaller project than they generally take on, but one of the scientists is interested in dirt bike paths and may be interested in working with us. We don't know what this would cost...we should hear from them in the next week or so. If she doesn't hear from them in ten days, Genie will call them again.

Question for Vic and all: If it does work out that someone from this group could come to look at the site for under \$2600, could it be considered maintenance, in that it would help the BCPUD develop a realistic management plan?

The Knoll

Last Sunday's broom pull resulted in the removal of a large stand of broom and cotoneaster growing over a large tree snag, revealing a healthy coffeeberry bush. Other work included removing broom and other invasives and weeding around young native plants growing on the

knoll. Ken, Tish, Janine, Meg, Genie were joined by Juliana Mann to get the work done. Refreshment were enjoyed by all.

We realize that this effort needs to keep going while the soil is moist and it's not so hard to pull out the bushes. We decided to meet on the knoll again in six weeks (June 14) for another pull. We would also like to surround young natives with compost and put up larger flags so that mowers can work around them. That brought up the issue of mowing – when is the BCPUD planning to mow the area? Hopefully, it is scheduled before June 14.

ACTION: Genie will get in touch with Billy to find out about the mowing schedule.

Tish asked Genie to send the committee a final copy of the poster to send to others who might be interested in joining us. Genie will also send the knoll proposal (phase 1) and the schematic with plants that Judith prepared.

CALFIRE grant

The BCPUD applied for and was awarded a grant of \$150,000 to remove some of the trees (mostly eucalyptus) coming up from the canyon. The BCPUD has to develop a plan for the removal by the end of 2017. Work will start in 2018.

Genie will meet with Jennifer and Anita Brown to walk the knoll to decide whether the removal of the cotoneaster growing along the edge of the knoll above the canyon could be included in the project. Given everyone's busy schedules, we agreed to meet in early July, probably on a Monday morning.

ACTION: Genie will call Jennifer to set a date/time in two months. Anyone on the committee is welcome to come along.

Treasurer's report

Meg told us that there is \$1300 in the LSC account after Judith was paid \$500 for her work on the landscape plan and plant list. What should we do with the remaining \$1300? Should we ask Don Murch to work on uprooting cotoneaster that is growing on the knoll?

ACTION: First, Genie will ask Billy when the knoll is to be mowed and if Don will be hired to do it. We could, then, ask him about focused root removal that we think would move the knoll project forward.

Soil Testing

This is a complex set of questions: does the treated water from the pond system contain any contaminants, such as commonly used household chemicals, and is there any evidence that these chemicals might be found in soils in which vegetables are being grown? The first step would be to develop a list of chemicals that might be found and at what level they might be impacting human health, and a sampling plan that would be representative of the soil and then identifying a laboratory that could test samples using known methods.. The laboratory would be consulted as to cost, etc. In sum, there is much work to be done before any testing would be performed.

ACTION: Jody will develop a list of "chemicals of concern." Genie will talk to colleagues at EPA about how to develop a representative sampling design.

OTHER

Jack Siedman's resignation was accepted regretfully. His support and active participation helped the committee articulate its mission and develop a report with recommendations that it brought to the BCPUD for its consideration. His advocacy for acceptance of the report and the committee's on-going work will always be appreciated.

The committee discussed whether another member of the BCPUD would be interested in joining. This should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, May 26, 2017