

Land Stewardship Committee
Friday, September 23, 2016
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jack Seidman, Vic Amoroso, Jody Angel, Janine Aroyan, Tish Brown, Ken Masterton, Genie McNaughton, Mickey Murch, Meg Simonds

Agenda

1. Bike, pedestrian and horse paths (Janine)

Janine and Tish met with Bill Pierce, Don Smith and Jennifer Blackman last week at the BCPUD. The bike paths need maintenance and the BCPUD is responsible. The best scenario would be to have someone already on the payroll do the work. BCPUD staff already has full-time assignments. Oscar, who works at Resource Recovery, has agreed to do it, approximately 4 hours/week, to clear the paths and dig minor trenches to move water away and prevent erosion. Don will supervise this work.

Another project is to make a crossover for horses at the Mesa-Overlook intersection so that the horse path is safe and clearly defined, which would be done by BCPUD staff.

The cost of trail maintenance is expected to be approximately \$4600/year.

Further down the line – looking into appropriate surfacing material with curbing along the sides for the bike trail.

2. Pampas grass removal (Janine)

Don Murch has removed pampas grass in most areas on the land around the lower pond and along the treatment pond spray fields parallel to Overlook. The big patch above the small pond will take some more work, as it is on a steep slope. To be continued.

3. The knoll project (Genie)

Whatever native planting is done will need water through the first year to get to the rainy season. What about catching water from the laboratory roof? It would still be hard to carry the water down to the knoll. Mickey suggested putting a smaller cistern below the one on the north side of Parcel B, to catch overflow from the one that is in place there. The committee will research this idea. Planting is likely a year away, as the area needs to be prepared for planting. It has been mowed, now we can look for any signs of natives persisting in order to flag or fence them. Janine shared information about sheet mulching – rolls of recycled cardboard are now commercially available. Placing overlapping rolls over the grassy area could make weedy grass removal easier. Another part of the project is to remove the stand of cotoneaster and any broom that surrounds the area. All are invited to a meeting with Don Murch on Sunday at 10:00 AM at the knoll to discuss mechanical removal.

{Janine, Tish, Don and Genie met on Sunday. Don has a new machine – a shrub mower – that can take out the cotoneaster. Other ideas from that meeting included ploughing the field to bring up cotoneaster roots, chipping and mulching the debris and leaving it to decompose on site, bringing up the oldest compost at Resource Recovery to lay over the field and potentially using Mickey's greenhouse for growing native bunch grass plugs to plant there and elsewhere. Invasive removal would ideally include going into the shaded areas to remove dead trees and open up the view to Bolinas Bay.}

4. Membership, attendance (Genie)

It is noted that all members of the committee are here today. We have a good group of folks who represent different perspectives in our community. We've been working together since the formation of the committee, more than two years ago. We don't want to remove someone because s/he has been unable to come to the meetings, but we do want to hear from that person as to intention, or, rather, the reason s/he couldn't come. We will continue to send minutes and other news out to everyone. Of course, you are allowed to formally resign from the committee, but please do it that way, don't just drift away. We need all of us!

5. Working with the BCC to hold donations for LSC projects (Meg)

Meg explained that she had talked with her accountant as to the best way to proceed after the BCC has received donations and the LSC is ready to spend money on a project. The BCC puts the money in an account for the LSC and gives us a check. The advice she got was to keep it completely separate from any individual's finances. We agreed that Janine would talk to Christine Cuhna, a well-respected bookkeeper in town, to ask her what it would cost to set up a tracking system for the LSC donations. We also need to prepare a letter to send to donors – what information should it include? BCC non-profit status information? Who can help with this? {The LSC got its first donation on Sunday, \$300 from Don Murch. Genie will send the check, along with her check for \$300 to Meg, our treasurer. Please send your donations to Meg as soon as you can so that we build up resources to move on a project after we have brought it to the BCPUD and it has been approved.}

6. Review of goat farm lease (Genie)

Apparently, Alethea Patton is no longer associated with the Goat Farm. Kanoa Bartlome put some pigs in the fenced in area. The BCPUD sent him a letter informing him that the lease is for goats only. The lease is up in 2018. If it is brought to the BCPUD for renewal, it will be reviewed by the LSC and any recommendations for extension and terms will be sent to the BCPUD Board. The Board will review the lease and take appropriate action.

There was some discussion of the pros and cons of pig farming, but the bottom line is that the BCPUD crew is not in favor and the general guiding principle is to have fewer, if any, domestic animals on the land.

7. The Knoll Project

At the last LSC meeting, we reviewed a plan we solicited from Judith Larner, laying out potential plantings for the area. Judith spoke about the plan. We agreed that the first phase of the project is to prepare the land. Genie will prepare a detailed plan of this first phase with associated costs to send to LSC members for review. The goal is to present the plan to the BCPUD Board at the October 12th meeting.

Next meeting: Friday, October 28th at 3:00.