

MINUTES OF THE FIRE SAFE CAMP MEEKER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 2018/12/21

Richard Seaman called the meeting to order at 12:35.

ROLL CALL: Sheila Denton, Richard Seaman

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 2018/12/07

Sheila moved, and Amy seconded that we approve the minutes of the steering committee meeting on 2018/12/07.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) Large Landowners

Sheila discussed her interactions with the leadership of St Dorothy's Rest, including membership of the Community Task Force, which meets quarterly. The steering committee has been invited to a "Meet And Greet" event at Bohemia Ecological Preserve on Jan 18, 2019. Richard mentioned that the VFD intends to visit Alliance Redwoods and look around as part of their fire preparedness, and he hopes to tag along with this.

(2) Team Building: FSCM Promotion, Brand Management and Recruitment

Sheila showed the logo work done by her niece, a professional graphic designer. It shows a stylized redwood tree and roofline with a smoking chimney. Richard asked whether pruners might be incorporated into the logo to convey the human aspect of the environment: trees, houses, humans playing an active role.

Richard mentioned that Fire Safe Occidental refers to its leadership team as the "steering committee". He moved that we should do the same, and ratify this decision at our next meeting when all voting members are present. Sheila seconded this motion.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

Discussion of the mission statement was rolled over to the next meeting, when all voting members are present.

Richard gave an update on people he's invited to join the steering committee. Sheila suggested that some of the potential steering committee members might want to get actively involved later, once planning and implementation are more directly underway.

As part of this topic, there was discussion of the limits of transparency as far as the steering committee's work is concerned. Although we want to be as open as possible, it might impinge on the privacy of the people invited to join the steering committee if we publicly discuss their potential involvement.

(3) Near-term Direction

Richard suggested that Sylvania Ave and Gilson Ave might both be "low-hanging fruit" in terms of setting up C.O.P.E. (Citizens Organized To Prepare For Emergencies) groups.

He also suggested particular properties on Montgomery Ave and Hampton Rd which he thinks might be particularly suitable as locations to do small defensible space projects.

Sheila said we should strategize about photos for the website and Facebook page, including who is visible doing the project. We should publicize these events to encourage others to join COPE groups, and do defensible space on their properties.

Richard spoke about the inaugural public meeting of Fire Safe Occidental, which he and Amy attended. He supported the idea Amy suggested of bringing Caerleon Safford to Camp Meeker, perhaps just before fire season starts, to hold a public presentation on home hardening, like the presentation she gave at the FSO meeting.

CORE TEAM MEMBERS' REPORTS

In spite of reservations he expressed at the previous meeting, Richard attended the Good Fire Alliance setup meeting in Santa Rosa. Although he still feels that their approach is not very applicable to our situation in Camp Meeker, he felt that it was a good networking experience. He spoke with Stephanie Larson of the University Of California Cooperative Extension, who he'd previously had email correspondence with, and also with the person who runs the Sonoma County curbside chipper program, who told him that the program now runs year-round, and that chipper reliability and maintenance problems mentioned by Caerleon Safford are largely due to the feeding of large materials into the chipper, up to 8" thick. Richard suggested that we would probably treat anything 1" thick or larger as firewood, and so we might well not experience these reliability problems.

Richard moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was seconded by Sheila.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

ACTION ITEMS

action item: Richard to distribute agendas and minutes to core team members, community supporters and resource specialists by Wed, Dec 5th.

action item: Everyone to bring suggestions for a mission statement to the next meeting.

action item: Amy to look into getting green waste bins for Camp Meeker residents through Recology, as per a November, 2018 article in the Sonoma County Gazette.

action item: Amy to explore the setting up of COPE groups and report back.

Amy researched COPE groups and emailed the people who started this concept, but as of 2018/12/21 she hasn't heard back.

action item: Sheila to send SDR "zone language" to Richard.

action item: Richard to put the SDR "zone language" on the FSCM website.

action item: Richard to find out whether Amy wants to come to the Bohemia Ecological Preserve "Meet And Greet" day on Jan 18, 2019.

action item: Sheila to email the logo to Amy and Richard.

action item: Richard to lend "Tending The Wilderness" to Sheila.

action item: Richard to order "Forgotten Fires", a book discussing how Native Americans used fire to manage their environment.

action item: Richard to contact potential defensible space property owners about FSCM doing work on their properties.

action item: Richard to contact people on Sylvania Ave about interest in setting up a COPE group.

action item: Richard to add Caerleon talk to agenda of next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 14:28. Minutes taken by Richard Seaman.