

## **MINUTES OF THE FIRE SAFE CAMP MEEKER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 2019/01/28**

Richard Seaman called the meeting to order at 11:06.

**ROLL CALL:** Sheila Denton, Amy Lemmer, Richard Seaman

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jon Hanlein described how Alder Creek Ranch handles slash using burn piles and other methods.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 2019/01/14**

Sheila moved, and Richard seconded that we approve the minutes of the steering committee meeting on 2019/01/14.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

### **REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Previous action items which were completed have been removed from these minutes, uncompleted action items are listed along with new action items at the end of these minutes.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **(1) Insurance Issues**

Because Fawn Nekton was only able to be at the meeting for an hour, we covered the first agenda item before public comment, approval of minutes, review of action items and old business.

She discussed with us at some length the various insurance issues involving FSCM. Her speciality is non-profit insurance, which is very helpful for us. Her business consists of a mix of about 50% corporate and 50% private, and 85% of the corporate business is with non-profits. Particular issues she addressed:

1. A fiscal sponsor such as NCR&DC would typically be considered to have insurance responsibilities for the groups they are sponsoring, though this isn't something we should depend on, since NCR&DC might not be taking this into account. Fawn will send materials to Richard describing how fiscal sponsorship works from an insurance point of view.
2. Most home insurance policies cover "falling objects", regardless of how they fall, so if a volunteer cuts down a tree and it causes damage, then it should be covered.
3. Single day event policies become prohibitively expensive if we do more than a few events per year, so it's better to get annual coverage.
4. Volunteer insurance only provides medical coverage for accidents, there are no policies which cover ongoing volunteer disability payments. Fawn believes that an annual, \$500,000 insurance policy covering 10 volunteers would cost about \$500. The 10 volunteers don't have to be the same throughout the year, they can vary from day to day.
5. The Sonoma County Park Foundation was set up to enable volunteer work which the county is not permitted to do. We might be able to partner with SCPF to do work in Camp Meeker.

#### **(2) Acquiring SDR Property Within The Residential Area**

Richard said that he would love it if we could somehow acquire the St Dorothy's properties within the residential area of Camp Meeker, which they want to divest of. He suggested putting together a consortium of ecological groups such as LandPaths, Forest Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and so on, which could raise the money to do this.

He said that he imagines that it might take 5 to 10 years to achieve this. Sheila mentioned that she is now on the board of St Dorothy's.

### (3) Mission Statement

There was a discussion of Richard's proposed mission statement:

"Fire Safe Camp Meeker seeks to restore the forest in and around Camp Meeker closer to its state before European settlement, in order to enhance the ecological health of the watershed and to minimize the risk of high intensity wildfire to the welfare of the forest, its fauna and flora and the human inhabitants of the area. We will educate, organize and equip the community to remove excess fuel in the forest, eliminate invasive species, and make fire less likely to move between homes and the forest."

It was felt that this was too wordy, so Amy and Sheila are going to work together on paring it down. Sheila spoke about the need for an "elevator pitch" description of our mission, and Richard suggested we might have 4 different versions of the mission statement:

1. Our motto, which is currently "Restore The Forest, Make Camp Meeker Safe".
2. The elevator pitch.
3. Something like Richard's proposed mission statement, which fleshes out the elevator pitch.
4. The proposal statement which describes the mission in detail. This will likely become the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, once it's done.

Amy pointed out that the reference to "European settlement" could be unnecessarily divisive, as could references to the earlier native American management of the land. She mentioned that she is a registered tribal affiliate (probably the wrong term). Richard said that we could fall back to the phrase he uses elsewhere, that we want to restore the forest "closer to what it was like before it was clear cut".

### (4) Home Hardening/Defensible Space Project at 75 Railroad Ave

There was general agreement with Amy's idea that it would be great to have 3 sponsors for this project, perhaps Fine Tree Care, Recology and Fire Safe Sonoma, with their names on a sandwich board at each project we do. Richard mentioned the fire wise landscaping work being done by University Of California Cooperative Extension expert Mimi Enright, he will give her info to Amy. Richard expressed concern that making "recycling" a part of our community education would take us outside our core mission. Amy resolved this by suggesting that we focus on "waste management" rather than "recycling".

### (5) Recology Update

Amy said that her main interest is community education in the areas of home hardening and defensible space. She has spoken with Ambrosia Thompson (sp?) about Recology's "Zero Waste" outreach program. Ambrosia lives in West County, and she said that Recology has no-charge incentives available. They will also look into getting yard waste collection for Camp Meeker residents. There's a public meeting on Tues, Mar 12 to address issues like these.

There was discussion of how we should fund educational materials and other items before we receive outside funding. Richard said that although he's been paying for various things already, he's constrained by having very little income. Amy suggested that we put administration money into grant applications to cover work done by Richard, and Sheila agreed. Amy said that 80% of funds to non-profits come from individuals, not grants from government agencies or NGOs.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS**

None.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

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

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.

Richard to put the SDR “zone language” on the FSCM website.

Richard to contact property owners about FSCM doing defensible space work on their properties.

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

Amy to contact Caerleon Safford about giving her Home Hardening presentation in Camp Meeker.

Amy to contact Fine Tree Care about becoming involved with individual property owners’ projects, and supporting FSCM in other ways.

Richard to tell Tom Austin of Camp Meeker Beat about individual property owners’ projects, and COPE groups.

Richard to ask North Coast Resource Conservation & Development Council about using their insurance for volunteers, about people making donations to FSCM through NCRC&DC, and about what grants we could be applying for.

Richard to ask Fawn Nekton about volunteers working under people’s homeowner’s insurance.

Amy to ask Recology whether we can do a tour of their facilities.

Amy to research the Dutch Bill Creek watershed council to see if it still exists, and if we would benefit from liaising with them.

Fawn to send materials to Richard describing how fiscal sponsorship works from an insurance point of view.

Richard to look into whether we can partner with the Sonoma County Park Foundation to do volunteer work on CMR&PD property.

Sheila to ask Val Larson about FSCM using Anderson Hall for community education sessions.

Amy and Sheila to rework Richard’s mission statement to something with more impact.

Richard to give Mimi Enright’s contact information to Amy.

Richard to order 6’ x 2’ FSCM banner to be hung up at community events.

Richard to get information on how fiscal sponsorship insurance issues work from Fawn.

The meeting adjourned at 13:05. It was agreed that our next meeting would be Mon, Feb 4 at 11AM. Minutes taken by Richard Seaman.