

## **MINUTES OF THE FIRE SAFE CAMP MEEKER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 2019/02/04**

Richard Seaman called the meeting to order at 11:13.

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 2019/01/28**

Sheila pointed out that the statement in the last minutes that she's on the board of St Dorothy's Rest is incorrect, however she is on SDR's Community Task Force. With that amendment, Sheila moved and Amy seconded that we approve the minutes of the steering committee meeting on 2019/01/28.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Gold Ridge RCD has asked us to write a Letter of Support to facilitate a grant application they and a coalition of other RCDs are making to add a staff member who would do work which in part benefits FSCM. Amy moved and Sheila seconded, that Richard writes such a Letter of Support.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

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

When the action item about ordering the 6' x 2' banner for community outreach events was brought up, there was a lot of discussion about the FSCM logo which Sheila is spearheading, relative to the "forest banner photo" which Richard developed, and which is at the top of each page of the website. Richard thought that the logo and the forest photo were to be used in different situations, but it was suggested that they be used together. In order to find common ground, there was discussion of whether the existing banner font and font color (yellow) should be used, or the logo font and font color (white). Richard said he was OK going either way, and leaned slightly toward the banner font (serif) and logo font color (white), though he was also OK with the logo font and logo font color. Amy preferred the banner font and banner font color, so there was no consensus. It was agreed that Richard should put together a version of the banner to show placement of the logo, and with the website URL [www.FireSafeCampMeeker.org](http://www.FireSafeCampMeeker.org) and the Facebook logo, to indicate that FSCM has a Facebook page.

Because of the difficulties experienced around the discussion of the logo and banner, Richard mentioned that Fire Safe Occidental allows "veto" votes by members of its steering committee. Such a veto would only make sense when a steering committee member believes that the issue is of great importance for the project, such as this sort of basic branding issue. It would usually imply that not enough discussion has occurred on the topic to convince all the members of the best course of actions, and that more discussion should happen. Amy pointed out that this would be a form of "consensus decision making". Amy moved, and Richard seconded, that we implement this sort of consensus voting for FSCM, which would mean that we would record AYES, NAYS, ABSTENTIONS and VETOES.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0 VETOES: 0

After discussion, 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) Mission Statement

Sheila presented her deliberations on 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.”

Sheila said that her online research suggested that a strong mission statement should answer four basic questions, and that in fact the proposed mission statement does this job fairly well:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. What do we do?              | <b>Restore the forest. Increase safety.</b>                         |
| 2. How do we do it?            | <b>Educate. Organize. Equip. Remove fuel load/invasive species.</b> |
| 3. Whom do we do it for?       | <b>Human and environmental health and safety.</b>                   |
| 4. What value are we bringing? | <b>Enhanced ecological health. Decrease fire risk.</b>              |

Although she liked the phrase “fauna and flora”, she suggested removing “its fauna and flora and the human inhabitants of the area” in order to pare down the statement at least a little. Sheila suggested that this should work as an “elevator pitch”, but Richard said he would have trouble remembering all of the parts of it, and that it would be good to have an elevator pitch longer than the motto but shorter than the proposed mission statement.

Richard suggested we might have 4 standard statements of what the FSCM project is, in increasing length:

1. Our motto, “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 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, once it's done.

It was agreed that Sheila and Amy should collaborate on producing the “elevator pitch” version of the mission statement.

### (2) Community Educational Outreach

Sheila said that Katie Evenbeck offered to let FSCM use one of St Dorothy's meeting spaces for our educational outreach meetings. It was generally agreed that using SDR as a venue would be beneficial, since it should enhance the relationship between SDR and the rest of the community. There was a discussion of other possible options, including Lisa Kurtz's meeting space beside her West County Herb store in Occidental, and Anderson Hall. There was general agreement that Anderson Hall would probably attract the most participants, however Sheila said that Val Larson had told her that FSCM would have to pay to use it. Richard wondered whether that wouldn't be a decision for the entire Rec & Park board, and it was agreed that he should put an agenda item forward for the next R&P board meeting to figure out what their policy is.

It was agreed that Amy should request Ambrosia of Recology to address the community about waste management on Mar 12.

There was a discussion of what topics could be part of the community outreach, these were suggested:

1. “Chipper, Lopper, Dumpster”

2. firewise landscaping
3. chainsaw certification
4. home hardening, perhaps under a different name, though Richard suggested that since this is a standard term it might make sense to use it
5. COPE groups
6. emergency preparedness and the “go bag”

Amy suggested that we should do 3 educational outreach meetings at monthly intervals before doing the “defensible space/home hardening” project at her place. Richard expressed concern about delaying that project so long.

We ran out of time to address agenda items (3), relating to applying for non-profit status, and (4) relating to applying for FireWise/Fire Safe Council status, or the steering committee members’ reports. The meeting adjourned at 13:09. Minutes taken by Richard Seaman.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ REPORTS**

None.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

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

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.

Amy to request Ambrosia of Recology to address the community about waste management on Mar 12.

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.

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

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

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

Amy and Sheila to produce an “elevator pitch” version of the FSCM mission statement.

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

Richard to write Letter of Support to help Gold Ridge RCD and other RCDs write a grant to fund a shared staff member.

Richard to send Roberta MacIntyre's email address to Amy.

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

Sheila to prepare press releases for NextDoor, FaceBook, Camp Meeker Beat and other outlets, to be circulated to the steering committee before publication.

Sheila to ask what meeting spaces SDR has available for a community meeting on Mar 12 by a Recology representative.

Sheila to provide the name of the white logo font to Richard.

Richard to provide a rough implementation of the FSCM 6' x 2' banner to the steering committee for discussion prior to purchasing the banner.

Richard to ask the Rec & Park board whether it's possible for FSCM to use Anderson Hall for no charge.