

SHHA Creek/Flood Committee

March 8, 2014

Meeting Summary/Next Steps

Meeting Attendees: Katie Rice, Patti Vance, Connie Berto, Walter Kolon, Jon d'Alessio, Eric Riemer, Nancy Vernon

Purpose of Meeting: to review 2013 committee accomplishments/feedback received and set goals for 2014/outline efforts

2013 Committee Efforts Recap/Feedback

Attendees reviewed recap of committee efforts/feedback (see after meeting summary) and developed following list of ideas/input to explore:

- Move workshop and creek cleaning event a few weeks later (late September/early October) to avoid back-to-school time and hotter weather
- Explore ideas with community for a more hands-on workshop on topic of interest/relevance (bank stabilization e.g. willow planting)
 - Potentially partner with STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed) and MCSTOPPP
- Contact the Dutra Group (San Rafael rock quarry) to learn more about options for recycling non-green materials (e.g. bricks, concrete)
- Explore partnering/coordinating Marin Sanitary's green waste day with creek cleaning day
- Decide logistics for removal of sandbag station at end of rainy season – to date, about 75 bags have been used and about 1/3rd of the 10 tons of sand has been used
- Explore partnering with Youth2Work to participate in Creek Cleaning event and afterwards for jobs beyond volunteer corps abilities
- Continue to offer community service opportunities for students and look for ways to expand program
- Walter/Triple C offered to chip/compost on day of creek cleaning event and after large storms
- Have creek corps leaders (Mark, Eric, James) do creek assessment in summer/take pictures to document work needed, then meet with County flood control staff (Bene); leaders to potentially look for an additional leader(s) to help with current workload and for succession planning

- Decide on volunteer structure needed once assessment is done (e.g. neighborhood captains)
- Develop a one-page flier of Creek Cleaning Do's and Don'ts to distribute to community and remind residents of their responsibility to keep creek clear/clean

2014 Creek Committee Goals/Efforts

Committee agreed to build on work done in 2013 and continue with an annual workshop and creek cleaning day as focus of efforts, taking into account the comments above in 2013 Efforts Recap/Feedback.

Key follow-up items for 2014:

- Determine focus of workshop (get community input)
- Dates/time for workshop and creek cleaning day with clear communication for each
- Role of waivers with creek-side homeowners
- Assessment in summer by creek corps leaders to plan resources needed/identify hot spots for creek cleaning day
- Best use for neighborhood captain structure

Wrap Up/Next Steps:

- Next meeting on **May 17th** at 10:30am at SHHA clubhouse
- Nancy to bring suggested dates for workshop/creek cleaning day to May meeting for discussion
- Nancy/Eric to discuss use of Right to Enter waiver for creek assessment (March/April)
- Nancy/Bene to discuss possible workshop topics/STRAW partnership (March/April)
- Walter to contact Dutra Group to learn more about recycling non-green materials (by May meeting)
- Nancy to contact Marin Sanitary re: partnering with Green Waste Day (by May meeting)
- Patti/Walter to work together regarding moving sand bag station after rainy season
- Eric to contact Nancy with approximate completion date of creek assessment in summer

Recap of 2013 Creek Committee Events/Efforts (Handout at 3/8 Meeting)

Creek Committee Meetings (4)

- Creek Committee Kick Off Meeting at Civic Center
- Mailing/collecting Right of Entry waivers from residents on creek
- Development of “Problem Area” Map and Database
- Development of Creek Committee webpage (event info, resource listing)
- Training of Creek Corps Leaders (Bene)
- Creek Stewardship Workshop (8/25)
 - Purpose: presentation/Q&A on creek care/best practices
 - Marketing Campaign – bulletin, signage, e-blast, fortune cookies
- Creek Cleaning Event (9/7)
 - Purpose: a community-wide effort to clean out creeks/drains in preparation for winter rains
 - Marketing Campaign – bulletin, signage, e-blast, tabling, fortune cookies, Drake communications/community service
 - Creek Corps Leaders – Mark, Eric, James
 - Network of Neighborhood Captains (14, including Hidden Valley and San Domenico)
- County pick up of green debris and trash
- Marin Sanitary dumpster at clubhouse
- Use of Conservation Corps to clean areas too difficult for volunteers
- Winter Storm Awareness Messaging
- Sand Bag Station Implementation

Summary of Creek Clean Up Comments (received to date)

- In the future it would be great if we could get instructions as to what to do with non-green recyclable materials such as concrete, bricks, and asphalt. There’s lots of it still in the creek channel, and more gets exposed/floats down each winter.
- For those that don’t want to get involved, could hold a fundraiser to raise money to hire folks to do work rather than do it themselves
- Have event in October when more leaves have fallen... how can we pick up leaves and where can we put them?
- Can we do a reminder clean up in January?
- Somehow incorporate the opportunity for selective re-vegetation with natives to help suppress the invasive species and stabilize some of the eroding creek

banks. It seems that if this were done carefully (so as not to create more vegetation obstructions), the habitat would gradually improve over time, and would require less work to maintain.

- Remind volunteers to separate the green waste from the garbage for the County pick up
- Make sure debris pick up places are easily accessible for County crew
- More marketing in early Nov reminding everyone to keep their seasonal and full-time creeks clean in anticipation of the rain.
- Can we use Youth2Work to take care of the jobs that are too big for volunteers?
- How can we expand our reach to other residents beyond those living on the creek?
- Comments from Bene/Flood Control:
 - Have Creek Corps leaders do creek assessment in summer (take pictures to document work that needs to be done)
 - Combine Creek Stewardship Workshop with training for Neighborhood captains (building on structure from 2013); consider making workshop portion more hands-on (e.g. willow planting)
 - Work with County to provide pick up of debris again