

# Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

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## Minutes

Save Our Trails Annual Meeting

Monday, August 8, 2011

Willow Glen Baptist Church

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Attendance

##### Directors in Attendance

Roland LeBrun , Martin Delson, Taisia McMahon , Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, Lars Thurfjell (making a quorum).

##### Directors Absent

Rick Hernandez (excused)

##### Directors on Leave

Joan Bohnett, Shirley Rogers

##### Members in Attendance

Carlos Babcock

##### Visitors in Attendance

Lara Tran, from Pierluigi Oliverio's office

#### Minutes Approved

The minutes of the June 13 meeting were amended and unanimously accepted as amended.

#### Excused Absences

The Board voted to approve requests for an excused absence by Rick Hernandez, by a vote of 6-0-2.

#### Leaves of Absence

N/A

**VISITOR’S REPORT**

Carlos Babcock was given the floor. He told the Board that he was no longer with the SVBC but was still very active in promoting cycling. One of the activities he has been promoting has been a bicycle ride on the first Sunday of every month. The rides are publicized on a Facebook page called “*Kidical Mass in the Glen.*”

Carlos said that the group is planning a new ride sometime in September that would highlight the trails – perhaps taking the Guadalupe River Trail from its southern end to the Children’s Discovery Museum for some events there. Because of Labor Day, the ride would not be on the first Sunday; the date is still to be determined.

Members expressed an interest in participating, and of using the opportunity to publicize SAVE OUR TRAILS.

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS**

President’s Report

- (a) The excavation of contaminants along the UPRR ROW is on schedule. The section from Minnesota to Willow has been completed, and work is now underway between Willow and Broadway.

Secretary’s Report

- (a) Martin said that he received an email from Larry Ames pointing out that the draft EIR for San Jose’s updated General Plan (“Envision 2040”) mistakenly omitted the eastern part of the Three Creeks Trail. Martin drafted a letter to be sent on SAVE OUR TRAILS letterhead to the Planning Department to point out this error. The Board unanimously approved sending the letter.

Treasurer’s Report

Mary Ellen said there were no changes from last month (\$876.21 in our bank account, plus approximately \$100 in our PayPal account. However, we owe the church \$140 for room rental.)

Attorney’s Report

Tai forwarded the information that there is a new negotiator for UPRR in their negotiations with CSJ. Her name is Monica Cavanaugh. Bruce has spoken with her and reported they had a friendly, business-like conversation. Because UPRR staff takes vacation for the month of December, negotiations may be not be concluded until January 2012.

**PROGRESS ON ACTION ITEMS**

No.	Who	Action	Progress
1	Taisia	Extract the contact information from the gmail list and forward it to Mary Ellen	Assign a new due date of 8/10.

4	Rick H.	Send an email to the Board specifying details (size, color scheme, etc.) of the banner with proposed logo and	Still open
5	Rick H.	Get three bids for the banner and present them to the Board.	Still open
7	Taisia	Contact Leslee Hamilton to confirm that GRPC will work as SOT's agent as a 501(c)(3) on grant applications	Closed.
9	Joan	Initiate process of devising formal procedure for resignations.	Still open.
15	MGD & MEP	Write a blog post on the SOT site regarding the clean-up work.	Still open
16	Bill	Put something on the "Back Fence" referring to the blog post of #15.	Still open
17	Martin	Draft the text of a resolution stating SOT's position on the preferred placement of the LGCT.	Still open

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Outreach Committee**

- (a) Martin distributed an updated copy of the flier that he revised a second time in accord with comments received from Board members by email. He said that he was not happy with the blurred appearance of the map that was inserted into the brochure and would work with Larry Ames to improve the clarity of the image. He asked whether the Board approved the brochure, assuming he was successful in making that improvement. Jack pointed out a typo. The Board voted 7-0-1 to approve the brochure as amended. The Board also authorized by a vote of 7-0-1 the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$20 to print 100 copies of the brochure on colored paper.

### **Deferred Issues**

N/A

### **New Issues**

- (a) Several people said that they would not be able to attend the September meeting. Martin said he would also have to miss the October meeting. Taisia noted that the normally scheduled meeting for October conflicted with Columbus Day. She moved that the September meeting be cancelled, and that the October meeting be moved back one week to take place on October 17th. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-1. Mary Ellen was asked to get in touch with the church staff to make these changes, and to confirm that a room would be available for us on the 17th.
- (b) Bill said that he would like SAVE OUR TRAILS to organize a community activity along the ROW of the 3CT, once the city's acquisition is complete. Volunteers would remove invasive plants and perform a final general clean-up.

- (c) Roland raised the issue that September 17<sup>th</sup> was the “*Second Annual Day on the Bay: a Multicultural Festival*”. The web site says, “Day on the Bay is open to the public. It will be held on **Saturday, September 17th at Alviso Marina County Park (Mills Street, Alviso) from 11:00AM to 4:00PM**. It is open to non-profits, community based organizations and businesses that would like to present information to the residents of Santa Clara County and the community of Alviso.” Roland suggested that SAVE OUR TRAILS apply for a booth, and be present to inform the public about our organization and to solicit new members. The Board favored the suggestion and assigned members of the Outreach Committee to work toward that goal.
- (d) Roland presented a draft version of a document called "California High Speed Rail Infrastructure Visual Design Guidelines San Jose" and highlighted potential issues with the Three Creeks Trail east-west connection.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday evening, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

#### Appendix A: Abbreviations

CSJ = The City of San Jose  
EIR = Environmental Impact Report  
FOSCT = Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail  
GRPC = Guadalupe River Parks Conservancy  
LGCT = Los Gatos Creek Trail  
NC = Nominating Committee  
OSA = Open Space Authority  
PRNS = Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services  
ROW = right-of-way  
SCVWD = Santa Clara Valley Water District  
SJPF = San Jose Parks Foundation  
SVBC = Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
SOT = SAVE OUR TRAILS  
UPRR = Union Pacific Railroad  
WGNA = Willow Glen Neighborhood Association  
3CT = The Three Creeks Trail

**Appendix B: Open Action Items**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due</b>
1	5/31/11	Taisia	Extract the contact information from the gmail list and forward it to Mary Ellen	8/10
4	5/31/11	Rick H.	Send an email to the Board specifying details (size, color scheme, etc.) of the banner with proposed logo and text.	8/8
5	5/31/11	Rick H.	Get three bids for the banner and present them to the Board.	8/8
9	5/31/11	Joan	Initiate process of devising formal procedure for resignations.	
17	7/11/11	Martin	Draft the text of a resolution stating SOT's position on the preferred	8/5
18	8/8/11	Taisia	Write to Yves to ask him what surface should be placed on ROW	8/12
19	8/8/11	Taisia	Get a letter from GRPC that states that they will act as our financial agent	8/12
20	8/8/11	Bill	Contact the site manager of the clean-up crew to ask what they are planning for the surface.	8/12
21	8/8/11	Mary Ellen	Speak with Jean of WGBC to cancel September meeting and to move the date of the October meeting to the 17 <sup>th</sup> .	
22	8/8/11	Bill	Speak to Rick H. about his progress on producing the banner	8/12
23	8/8/11	Martin	Send agenda of next meeting to all members.	10/14
24	8/8/11	Martin	Improve quality of map in brochure and print 100 copies	8/31
25	8/8	Bill, Jack, Rick	Apply for a booth at <b>Day on the Bay</b> , prepare, set up, and staff a booth; September 17 <sup>th</sup> , Alviso Marina	9/16