

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Willow Glen Baptist Church

ADMINISTRATION

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Corinne Asturias, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Jake Jacobson, Scott Lane, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Richard Silva, Bruce Tichinin (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Taisia McMahon (excused), Roland LeBrun (excused), Bill Rankin (excused), Lars Thurfjell (on leave)

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, chair of the Nominating Committee
Joe Carpenter, nominee for the Board of Directors
Jacob Finkle
Diane Solomon
Bertha Ward, nominee for the Board of Directors

Visitors in Attendance

Lara Tran, staff to Councilmember Oliverio

Introductions

Participants to the meeting introduced themselves. New attendees are:

- Joe Carpenter is an active bicyclist and member of the District 6 Neighborhood Leaders Group (D6NLG) and ex-president of the Burbank Del Monte NAC. He spoke of his interest in triathlon and cycle-cross.
- Jacob Finkle spoke of his participation in the SVBC.
- Diane Solomon spoke of her work with the San Jose Bike Party.
- Bertha Ward was welcomed as a resident of District 7. She is a member of the San José Neighborhoods Commission representing Dist. 7, and a strong supporter of the Three Creeks Trail who would like to represent D7 in meetings with Councilmember Madison Nguyen.

Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2013 were accepted unanimously as amended.

Excused Absences

The absences of Taisia McMahon, Roland LeBrun, and Bill Rankin were excused by a vote of 8-0 (1 abstention)

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Report from the Chair of the Nominating Committee

Larry Ames acknowledged the two nominees to the Board of Directors, Joe Carpenter and Bertha Ward, who had already introduced themselves. He passed around a sample of the ballot to be used for voting at the Annual Meeting, and it was approved by the Board with a minor correction.

Secretary's Report

Martin had three items to report:

- He signed and hand-delivered to Yves Zsutty the three letters of support for various grant applications for trail projects, as earlier approved by the Board.
- He informed new members of the Board about the bollard reflectorization project that SOT staff had volunteered for, and that had never been completed, and stated he heard from Yves Zsutty that Yves would like to reactivate this project, and that he (Martin) volunteered to do the work himself as he encountered bollards on trails that lack reflective tape.
- He stated that he learned of another grant application that Yves Zsutty wished to submit, and drafted a letter of support sent by email to Board Members the previous day, and asked for a vote authorizing him to sign the letter in the name of SAVE OUR TRAILS. The motion was made and was carried by a vote of 8-0 with one abstention.

Attorney's Report

Bruce reported he had not received any response from the realtor who listed the UPRR property on the Eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail. He will try to get in touch with the Trust for Public Land to assess their willingness to purchase the property and to landbank it until public funds can be allocated to purchase the land for a trail.

The motion was made to authorize the attorney to draft a letter, for approval by the Board, informing the realtor and UPRR that the SJ General Plan has designated a trail through the property for sale, and stating that law requires that this fact be disclosed to prospective buyers. The motion was approved unanimously.

The issue was raised about how to be informed if an issue related to a parcel in the ROW of the Three Creeks Trail should come before the Planning Commission. It was pointed out that it is possible to sign up for notification of all issues before the Planning Commission in any one, or combination of several

council Districts in San Jose. Corinne volunteered to sign up for such notification for D6 and D7 and to monitor any issues related to development of parcels on the ROW.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS

Joe Carpenter stated that on March 8th the City of San Jose will start to clear the homeless encampment between Hedding and CA-87 north of Coleman. Joe advocated that cycle-cross tracks be built at that location, at no cost to the City. This would serve a dual purpose: attracting cyclists from kids to cycle-cross enthusiasts while at the same time discouraging the re-establishment of homeless encampments.

DEFERRED ISSUES

Planning for the Annual Meeting

Jake reminded us that the cost of the space rental is \$180, plus a \$250 cleaning deposit. Martin said it was important that we have a clean-up crew to make sure we get our deposit back, and volunteered to participate. Chuck, Scott, Richard, Jack, and Bruce volunteered to join him in the clean-up effort.

Corinne volunteered to lead the effort to collect dues, distribute ballots, and collect them. She said that Annette and Bill Rankin would be helping her. Joe suggested that we establish a mechanism to use PayPal at the Annual Meeting so people could pay their dues through PayPal, and said he would help Corinne and Mary Ellen set one up.

Corinne said that she would coordinate with Taisia to get supplies.

Bruce requested that the clean-up committee also serve as a set-up committee, arriving at the Center at 6:00 to set up for the meeting.

An email from Taisia asked that someone purchase a small gift (e.g. a potted plant) that we could give to each of our speakers. Bertha Ward volunteered to do that. The email also pointed out the need for someone to generate an agenda for the meeting. Martin volunteered to do that.

T-shirt sales, revisited

Mary Ellen told the Board that, because of the widgets available for building our web site, it was difficult to meet the T-shirt sales policy we had established. She suggested that we drop the "special offer" of \$20 with free shipping when people sign up for membership and purchase a T-shirt at the same time. A motion was made to revoke that special offer. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

Items 19, 51, 105, 107, and 112-115 were closed.

On item #67, Corinne said that she had not been successful in her efforts to contact Representative Lofgren, but would continue to try.

On item #108, Bruce said he would re-initiate the task of getting in touch with the Trust for Public Lands regarding landbanking the parcels along the ROW of the Three Creeks Trail.

NEW ISSUES

Medical Leave

Joan requested a medical leave starting July 1st while she recuperates from surgery. The leave was granted unanimously.

Mitigation for Caltrain electrification

Roland had written to the Board pointing out that the city of Palo Alto was requesting that land be set aside for a trail alongside Caltrain tracks as mitigation for vegetation that has to be removed to support the Caltrain electrification project, and suggested that we request the same for the land needed to have the Three Creeks Trail cross the Caltrain tracks near Alma Ave. Scott provided more details on the electrification project. Martin suggested that Roland and Scott collaborate to draft a letter for Board approval with comments on the EIR for the Caltrain electrification project asking that land for the trail crossing be set aside as mitigation. Scott agreed to do so.

History of the Willow Glen Spur

Joan asked for Board approval for an effort she would undertake to recruit local historians to gather information about the history of the Willow Glen Spur, the railroad link to the canneries, along whose ROW the Three Creeks Trail will be constructed, and the relationship of the railroad to the community at the time of its construction and operation. This information would then be placed on informational placards along the path of the trail.

Joan said she had spoken with Yves Zsutty about this idea, and he was very enthusiastic about the idea. A motion was made to authorize Joan to proceed with this project, and it carried unanimously.

WWP Volunteers

Scott suggested that Weekend Work Program "volunteers" might be enlisted for some heavy work (e.g. clearing bush) in advance of our next trail clean-up effort.

Three Creeks Trail Planning Meetings

Jack reminded the Board of the upcoming series of meetings scheduled by the City on March 19th, May 29th, and July 24th, to gather community input about the design of the Eastern segment of the Three Creeks Trail. These meetings will occur at the Willow Glen Community Center, 2175 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose 95125, between 6pm and 9pm. He urged attendance at these meetings by all Board Members.

Friends of Five Wounds Trail Meeting

Jack informed the group that our colleagues at the Friends of the Five Wounds Trail were having their next meeting on Thursday, March 14th, at the Roosevelt Community Center, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.

Bike to Work Day

Scott informed the group that Bike to Work Day 2013 will be on May 9th. He said that there has never been an energizer station on Lincoln Avenue, and suggested that SOT might establish one somewhere along the Avenue to encourage bicycling and to publicize our organization.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
117	3/5/13	Corinne	Monitor published notices from the planning department related to activities on the Three Creeks Trail ROW	(on-going)
118	3/5/13	Bruce	Draft letter, for approval by Board, informing realtor and UPRR that the SJ General Plan has designated a trail through property for	4/2/13
119	3/5/13	Bill, Joan, Scott	Provide short biographical statement to Mary Ellen for her to use in application to SJ Parks Foundation.	4/2/13
120	3/5/13	Larry Ames,	Provide Mary Ellen with recommendation about SOT for her to use in application to SJ Parks Foundation.	4/2/13
121	3/5/13	Chuck, Martin,	Be present at Bascom Center at 6:00 pm for set-up for Annual Meeting.	3/26/13
122	3/5/13	Chuck, Martin,	Remain after Annual Meeting for clean-up.	3/26/13
123	3/5/13	Corinne, Bill &	Check membership, collect dues, distribute and gather ballots at Annual Meeting.	3/26/13
124	3/5/13	Corinne, Mary	Coordinate to set up a scheme to be able for us to accept PayPal payments for dues and T-shirts at Annual Meeting.	3/26/13
125	3/5/13	Bertha W.	Bring three gifts for speakers to Annual Meeting (e.g. potted tulip.)	3/26/13
126	3/5/13	Corinne	Coordinate effort to bring supplies to Annual Meeting which are needed registering members, sign-in, collection of dues, etc.	3/26/13
127	3/5/13	Bertha, Taisia	Go to Costco to buy supplies for refreshments for Annual Meeting: paper plates, napkins, etc. (Coordinate with Bill and Jack, per	3/26/13
128	3/5/13	Bill	Bring water to Annual Meeting	3/26/13
129	3/5/13	Bertha Ward	Bring decaf coffee to Annual Meeting. (Check with Roland about the appropriate amount.)	3/26/13
130	3/5/13	Jack	Bring cookies or cake to Annual Meeting.	3/26/13
131	3/5/13	Martin	Create and distribute an agenda for the Annual Meeting.	3/26/13

132	3/5/13	Taisia	Bring T-shirts to Annual Meeting for sale.	3/26/13
133	3/5/13	Scott, Roland	Draft letter for Board approval with comments on the EIR for the Caltrain electrification project asking that land for the trail crossing	3/26/13
134	3/5/13	Joan	Recruit local historians and work with them to write a history of the Willow Glen Spur and its relationship with local agriculture and	3/31/14

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be the Third Annual Meeting, to be held at the new Bascom Community Center at 1000 S. Bascom Avenue on Tuesday, March 26, from 7-9 pm.

The next regular Board meeting will be on Tuesday evening, April 2nd, at 7:00 pm.