

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Dwell Christian Church

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Corinne Asturias, Joan Bohnett, Joe Carpenter, Martin Delson, Jake Jacobson, Scott Lane, Roland LeBrun, Taisia McMahon, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bruce Tichinin, Bertha Ward (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Bill Rankin (excused), Richard Silva (excused), Lars Thurfjell (on leave)

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Richard Zapelli

Visitors in Attendance

Melrose Cacal and Matt Berkeley, staff to Councilmember Oliverio; Dorsey Moore, Director, Open Space Authority

Invited Speakers

None

Rules of Conduct

Tai reviewed the rules of conduct adopted on 2/7/2011.

Introductions

Guests were introduced.

Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2013 were amended and accepted as amended by a vote of 10-0 with 2 abstentions.

Excused Absences

Bill Rankin, Richard Silva.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

President's Report

Taisia reported that she heard from three separate San Jose council members who contacted her because they heard that SAVE OUR TRAILS might be reconsidering our support for the City's decision to replace the trestle across the Los Gatos Creek with a new bridge. She said that she found it difficult to lead the organization when there were Members of the Board who spoke in opposition to Board decisions publically.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Ellen spoke with Jim Reber of the San Jose Parks foundation, asking him when individuals who made donations by mail might expect to receive an acknowledgement or receipt. He responded that he sends out letters of thanks in a batch periodically, and that therefore there might be a delay before an individual receives an acknowledgment of a contribution. (Donations made on the web are acknowledged immediately.

Secretary's Report

Martin reported that he had reinitiated the project of putting reflectorized tape on bollards at the entrance to trails. (This is a project that SAVE OUR TRAILS had volunteered to do a couple of years ago, but the program never got off the ground because of a misunderstanding and a change in staff.) Martin felt it could be done most easily by a single individual, and he was doing it in the name of SAVE OUR TRAILS. To date, he had treated seven bollards. He will also be applying reflectorized tape to the metal gates that block the entrance to some trails.

In response to a question, Martin said that the City of San Jose is providing the tape.

Attorney's Report

Bruce said he was distressed by the actions of certain members of the Board who have damaged the reputation of SAVE OUR TRAILS in opposing the decision of the Board regarding the trestle. Bruce cited a statement from the California Corporate Code regarding the duty of loyalty of Board Members of a California Corporation.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Clean-Up Committee

Scott asked for the Board's opinion on two issues: (a) whether SOT should volunteer for tree-trimming along the right-of-way; and (b) the best approach for weed control along the right of way of the trail: whether to use volunteer-sourced cardboard and 8" to 9" of wood-chips or to use weed killer (*Round-Up*, per the City's standard weed-abatement protocol).

It was the consensus of the Board that we should not volunteer for any tree-trimming. This was work for professionals, and the risk of bodily injury was too high for us to undertake.

The question of the best approach for weed control was referred back to the Committee.

History Committee

Joan reported that the short summaries of the history topics collected by the Trail History group were accepted by Yves Zsutty as topics for informative signage along the Three Creeks Trail.

In addition, she noted that the Roberto Adobe, on Lincoln Avenue near I-280 and in close proximity to the Los Gatos Creek Trail, has been donated to the CA Pioneers of Santa Clara County. It is a historic landmark and will be developed as a museum.

DEFERRED ISSUES

None

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

Item 144 was closed.

NEW ISSUES

Request by Yves Zsutty to present bridge design to Board and to public

The Board first considered whether it was preferable to have Yves make his presentation at a regularly scheduled meeting, or whether to hold a special meeting just for that purpose. The consensus was the former. Since Yves would not be able to attend the next meeting if it was scheduled for July 2nd, and also because of potential conflicts with the Independence Day holiday, it was proposed that the next meeting be rescheduled for July 9th, and that Yves Zsutty be invited to make his presentation on that date. The motion carried by a vote of 8-3 with one abstention.

Times of Members' attendance in minutes

The proposal was made that the minutes include the times that Members joined and left the meeting. There was a concern that keeping track of this would add an additional burden of record keeping on the Secretary. No decision was reached on this issue.

Who should respond to emails directed from the Public to the whole Board?

Martin pointed out that in at least one case, he thinks that a member of the public who addressed an email to the Board received no response, and in another recent case, another member of the public received a response from two Board members to a single inquiry. Martin suggested that there be one Board Member who should be charged with the responsibility of either responding to an email to the Board, or of determining who on the Board should be asked to respond to a given letter.

The issue was referred to the Communications Committee for resolution.

Martin's request to speak in favor of bollard treatment at other forums

Martin said he would be speaking at at least two other committees (viz. the VTA BPAC and the Santa Clara BPAC) to advocate that they make the bollards on the trails in their respective areas more visible. He asked the Board to authorize him to speak on behalf of SAVE OUR TRAILS in his appearances.

During a brief discussion period, it was clear that there was far from unanimous consent to this request. For that reason, Martin withdrew the request.

Discussion of when the results of elections take effect

Joan pointed out that the issue was thoroughly spelled out in the By-Laws, and there was no need for any additional policy in this regard. The request for a further policy was withdrawn.

Poll of the Membership

Martin and Joan presented the conclusion of the Governance Committee that there was a gap between what the Board decides and what the Membership thinks. In reality, the Board has little knowledge of what our Members may want on given issues. It was proposed that we periodically send out a poll, approved by the Board, to the full membership, to gather their thoughts and opinions on specific issues. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0, with one abstention.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM VISITORS

Dorsey Moore

Dorsey informed the Board of the following developments at the Open Space Authority (OSA)::

- District 6 Director Appointment - On May 23rd the OSA Board of Directors appointed Mike Potter to serve as Director for District 6. (District 6 includes the majority of the eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail.)
- Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (CVOSP) - On May 11th the OSA held a Farm to Feast celebration at the CVOSP located by Palm Avenue and Santa Teresa. The Feast introduced communities to the Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve, a new 348-acre preserve in South Santa Clara County that will open in 2014. When fully completed the property will include trails that will eventually connect to Calero County Park.
- Support for Save Our Trails – Dorsey expressed personal appreciation of the work that Save Our Trails completed in just a few short years. SOT has raised awareness of key opportunities for trail network development and helped pull together the key agencies (City of San Jose, County

of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Valley Water District and Santa Clara County Open Space Authority) to recognize these opportunities. Most importantly, SOT remains in continual action to ensure that its vision for the Three Creeks Trail is fulfilled.

Roland asked what the Open Space Authority was doing in response to the overwhelming support for the build-out of the Alamitos Canal Trail, as shown in the responses to the on-line survey. Dorsey replied that the OSA will be incorporating these responses into a thirty-year plan that they are now working on.

Richard Zapelli stressed the importance of coherence among members of the Board.

Larry Ames made several points:

- It was public knowledge, as stated in our minutes published on the web-site, that the vote supporting the decision to replace the trestle was not unanimous.
- It is important to an organization for its members to be able to speak their opinions.
- It is not appropriate for the Board to go into a closed session to discuss policy issues.
- The organization should not be taking action on any issue unless it has been placed on the agenda for a meeting.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
148	6/4/13	Mary Ellen	Post information on web site that there may be a delay before receipts for donations are mailed to the donor	7/1/13
149	6/4/13	Martin	Put reflector tape on four bollards on the Hwy-237 bikeway at 1 st Street.	8/1/13
150	6/4/13	Martin	Let Yves Zsutty know that he may make a presentation to SOT at our regular meeting on July 9 th	6/7/13
151	6/4/13	Taisia	Arrange with Dwell Church for the date of the July meeting to be changed from July 2 nd to July 9 th .	6/10/13
152	6/4/13	Joe	Have Communications Committee develop a procedure for responding to emails from individuals which are addressed to "SOT_Board"	7/1/13
153	6/4/13	Roland	Distribute to the Board information regarding best practices for the intersection of trailheads with streets, and the dangers of the design at Albertson Parkway.	6/11/13

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 8:50 pm to discuss some internal issues. No action was taken

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, July 9th, at 7:00 pm.