

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2015

Willow Glen Public Library

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Domingo Candelas, Martin Delson, Heather Lerner, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, and Bertha Ward (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Mary Ellen Petrich

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Joe Cronin, Kristal Kaidoy

Visitors in Attendance

Phil Fernandez, liaison to District 6 council office

Introductions

Participants in the meeting introduced themselves. We welcomed the new Board Members Domingo Candelas and Heather Lerner to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Ames informed the group that the San Jose City Council would be voting the following day (May 19) on whether to accept the determination of the Historical Commission that the trestle across the Los Gatos Creek has historical significance. He said Councilmember Rocha had just sent around a memo recommending that the issue be studied before the council votes on the issue. (If the council rejects the findings of the Historical Commission, the trestle would be torn down and replaced by a steel bridge.)

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Martin reported that the total in SOT's various accounts was \$3,866.

He also reported on the financial impact of the annual meeting. The cost of the meeting was \$264, and the income from dues, donations, and the sale of a single T-shirt was \$255, so there was essentially no overall cost to putting on the meeting. But this does not account for \$164 in donations resulting from Board Members not accepting re-imbursement for expenses. As a result of these donations, SOT actually gained a total of \$155 from the meeting.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Martin and Joan presented the recommendations of the Governance Committee regarding its recommended changes to the By-Laws. Martin pointed out that the membership was informed of the recommendations, and they were posted on the organization's web site.

The recommended changes were discussed individually, and voted on. With two exceptions, the changes put forth by the Governance Committee were accepted.

- The Governance Committee suggested that the By-Laws be changed to read *"The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of three Directors and a maximum of thirteen Directors"*. The Board voted to change the maximum to twenty-one Directors.
- Jack asked that the following sentence in the current By-Laws be deleted: *"After the Organization has been established for one full year, a person must have been a Member for at least six months in order to be entitled to vote."* He pointed out that, in practice, if someone signs up as a Member at the Annual Meeting, they are given a ballot and permitted to vote at that same meeting. The Board agreed with his observation, and voted to delete the cited sentence of the By-Laws.

Martin said he would post the set of suggested revisions to the By-Laws adopted by the Board on the SOT web-site, and would inform the full Membership that the Board will be voting on their adoption at our next meeting. (A 2/3 vote is required for their adoption.)

NEW ISSUES

1. Martin asked the Board to approve the request from our Stevens Creek Trail liaison Tom Schaefer that, when discussing our organization with groups not familiar with us, he be able to refer to the organization by the abbreviated name **"Save Our Trails – Santa Clara County"**. The Board approved the request by a vote of 7-0 (2 abstentions).
2. Martin asked the Board to approve writing three letters of support for grant applications from the City of San Jose for work on the Coyote Creek Trail:
 - Maybury to Watson Park
 - Story Rd. to Phelan
 - Berryessa BART to Santa Clara / Alum Rock Bus Rapid Transit
3. Richard asked if anyone had any observations or critique of the trail clean-up of February 28th.

4. Richard asked that we schedule the date of the next clean-up now so it could be publicized and volunteers could put it on their calendars well in advance of the actual date. The group settled on possible dates September 19th and September 26th. Bill said he will contact Mollie (San Jose's coordinator of volunteer activities) to find out which date better fit her schedule, and would inform the group.
5. Richard suggested that Save Our Trails write letters of thanks to those groups that helped at the clean-up. Martin thought it was rather late to write letters now for a clean-up that occurred in February. The concept was approved by consensus, though for future clean-up activities.
6. Richard asked to be reimbursed for an expense of \$26.99 to give coffee and donuts to city workers at the February trail clean-up effort. The Board approved the expenditure by a vote of 7-0 with 1 abstention.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will on Monday, July 20th at 7:00 pm at the Willow Glen Public Library.