

Save Our Trails!



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

**DRAFT Minutes
Save Our Trails Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2015
Willow Glen Public Library**

ADMINISTRATION

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

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

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

Directors Absent

Martin Delson, Mary Ellen Petrich

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Helen Chapman

Visitors in Attendance

Erin Sheridan (representative of Councilmember Oliverio)

Changes to the Agenda

A vote on the revision to the By-Laws will be postponed to the September meeting.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 18 were considered. Richard suggested a change which was accepted by the Board with a vote of 6-1 with 1 absence.

Joan moved to accept the minutes of January 19. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0 with 2 abstentions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greater Greener Conference

Helen Chapman brought information from the Greater Greener Conference, and recommended that we get in touch and see if our two organizations might cooperate in same way.

Trestle over the Los Gatos Creek

Larry Ames updated the group on developments regarding the trestle over the Los Gatos Creek. The Friends of Willow Glen Trestle sued the city to have them do an EIR. The Court agreed, and it forbid demolition of the trestle until the city complied. The City then appealed the Court's ruling, but prepared an EIR nonetheless, and then went to court to get permission for demolition. The Court said, "Sorry: you appealed our decision, you now have to wait for the appeal to be resolved."

The City then went to the Appellate Court and asked for permission to demolish the trestle, but were again told to wait for the appeal to be resolved. The issue is still before the courts; the appeal could take months, and the trestle stands at least until then. If the appeal settles in favor of the preservationists, then we will finally get to address the EIR itself.

REPORTS

President's Report

1. Grant to Parks Foundation

The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy award a \$5,000 grant to the San Jose Parks Foundation, as fiscal agent, to be used to purchase tools that volunteers can use for city-sponsored trail clean-up efforts, including the clean-up for the Three Creeks Trail.

2. Advocacy

Bill said that Save Our Trails needs to start meeting with elected officials. He is concerned about the fate of the eastern alignment of the trail. Helen suggested speaking with Marybeth Harasz of Parks & Recreation, to make sure the eastern alignment remains in the Greenprint.

Bill said he spoke with Tai McMahon (past president of SAVE OUR TRAILS, and current officer with Friends of the Three Creeks Trail) about her continuing interest in the trail and exploring if she would join him in speaking with the mayor.

Bill suggested that we meet as one group with each council member. Bertha suggested that a large group should meet in particular with District 7 Council Member Nguyen.

Bill suggested attending leadership group meetings in each council district. Domingo said he would attend the D5 meeting, where Larry is a speaker.

Helen suggested making rounds of Council Members prior to October, when priorities are sent to the City Manager's office.

3. Los Gatos Creek

It is still uncertain how the two segments of the Los Gatos Creek Trail will be connected to span the gap between Lincoln Ave. and Meridian Ave.

CURRENT ISSUES

1. Funding

Bill reported having learned that the Silicon Valley Community Fund has shifted focus to make it more humanity-oriented. Bill would like to help with an introduction to the Silicon Valley Education Foundation

2. Trail cleanup

The next clean-up effort will be September 26th. If we get in touch with the Parks Foundation, they will help get the word out. We can use the Parks Foundation Facebook page to help publicize the event. We should write a letter of thanks to groups that participate. Bill and Joan volunteered to draft the letter, and Domingo will help.

NEW ISSUES

1. Creek Clean-up

Senator Beall will be holding a Los Gatos Creek clean-up campaign on Saturday August 15th from 8:45 to 11:00 am. Volunteers will meet at the Campbell Park basketball court along the creek.

2. Trail Count

The annual trail count will be on Wednesday, September 23rd. SAVE OUR TRAILS will cover the trail entrance at Willow Street near Bird Avenue. (Bill, Joan, and Heather from 8-10 am and Bill, Bertha, and Heather from 4-7 pm.)

3. Day on the Bay

This will occur on October 11th. The Board unanimously approved having us man a booth at the event. Bill will set up the booth and Bertha said she would join Bill there.

4. Speakers at SAVE OUR TRAILS meetings

Joan volunteered to coordinate the speakers at our our meetings to encourage their engagement with our activities. The speaker would make a presentation at the beginning, followed by the business portion of the meeting. Joan moved that we have speakers as part of our meetings. The Board unanimously approved the motion. The first speaker will be at the November meeting, to talk about Happy Hollow.

5. Sharing the list of members

Richard felt that all members should have access to the list of paid members, and so moved. Others on the Board expressed concern with privacy issues, with the risk of Board Members speaking with different voices, and with discouraging our members with excessive emails. Larry emphasized the need to speak with one voice. The motion failed by a vote of 1 for and 5 against.

6. Bike Party

Bertha asked about the opportunity to coordinate with the San Jose Bike Party. Larry voiced the opinion that the Party does not present a good opportunity for outreach.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be on September 21st at the Willow Glen Library at 7:00 pm..