

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes
Board Meeting
Monday, November 16, 2015,
Willow Glen Public Library
1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm

Attendance

Directors in Attendance: Heather Lerner, Richard Silva, Jack Nadeau, M.E. Petrich, Bill Rankin, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson. (quorum)

Directors Absent: Bertha Ward, Domingo Candelas

Members in Attendance: Tom Schaefer, Dev Davis, Mimi Vu

Visitors in Attendance: Violet from city councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio's office.

Invited Speakers: Heather Lerner, Yves Zsutty, Tom Schaefer.

Minutes

Minutes were approved for January (6 for, 1 abstain), March (6 for, 1 abstain), May (4 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstain), and Sept (4 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstain).

REPORTS

Officer Reports

None

New Issues

Heather Lerner, President of Happy Hollow Foundation, spoke about the importance of the zoo to the city and how it fits into the trail network, into the city, and into the world. Happy Hollow is helping to preserve the world's last 400 guerillas. Happy Hollow is not just for kids; it is also for dates, seniors, and artists. Each year the zoo has a senior walk-about which last year had 500 people all over 50. All 3 downtown trails go right to Happy Hollow.

Yves Zsutty, City of San Jose Trail Manager, gave a review of the last year's progress on trails. He noted that the Water District was planning to buy the strip of land behind the Elk's Lodge and will provide a recreational right of way for a trail. The city is planning to buy land next to Belleview Park. Also, the city is planning to buy land from VTA on William to Whitman for the 5 Wounds Trail. Yves is very concerned about the bridge in Kelly Park, which is a natural cut through between the Three Creeks Trail and other trails. Yves handed out a list of plants planned for the Three Creeks Trail. He also handed out a list of trees that are planned for removal. He asked that Save Our Trails review the tree removal plan. The price for the Eastern alignment is estimated to be \$7.5 million, which seems high. Yves discussed the plan by the city to divert parks money downtown solely to activate St. James Park.

Tom Shaefer from the Friends of Stevens Creek Trail spoke about the current progress on the Stevens Creek Trail. The four cities involved in the project have a joint committee which includes one city council person from each city. The project website for a feasibility study for the Stevens Creek Trail is at <http://stevenscreek.insunnyvale.com>. The site is chock-full of information and documents about the feasibility study.

Tom reported that good progress has been made although problems remain. We can celebrate that the Mountain View portion of the trail is complete as far as the intersection of Dale Ave and Heatherstone Way, at the eastern end of the bridge over highway 85, about 5/8ths of a mile south of El Camino, and it has no street crossings along the entire length.

Section 1: Dale/Heatherstone Bridge to W Fremont. Recommendation: run trail along creek.

Section 2: W Fremont to Homestead. Recommendation: Bike lane on Bernardo Ave, take out parking or make street one way. Lots of push back from neighbors. The proposal also includes a new bike/ped overpass over Fremont Avenue.

Section 3: Homestead to Stevens Creek Blvd (across 280). Recommendation: None. The joint committee recognized that there is a long-term need for a trail in this area and recommended that the cities should “reach out proactively to Caltrans and VTA” to let them know of interest in a bike/ped connection across the 280 freeway, and to put a “stake in the ground” in the event of future changes such as a redesign of the interchange or abandonment of the UPRR track.

Section 4: Provide trail access from Stevens Creek Blvd to Rancho San Antonio, with a new parking area and restroom alongside Stevens Creek Blvd.

What lies ahead is a long process, which starts with review of the Working Team's recommendations by the four city councils.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, January 18, 2015, at 7:00 pm, at the Willow Glen Library community room.