

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes
Board Meeting
Monday, July 18, 2016
Willow Glen Public Library
1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Attendance

Directors in Attendance: Richard Silva, Jack Nadeau, M.E. Petrich, Martin Delson, Laura Levin, Bill Rankin, Bertha Ward, Heather Learner, Domingo Candelas (quorum)

Directors Absent: Joan Bohnett

Community Members in Attendance: David Zapelli. Steve Kline, Jennifer Wolf, Karen Mason, Joel Gartland (Bay Area Ridge Council).

Members in Attendance: Larry Ames, Tai McMahan. Helen Chapman. Jean Dresden

Visitors in Attendance: Yves Zsutty (City of San Jose Trails Manager) Mike Flaughner & Joel Gartland (Open Space Authority). Rachel from city councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio's office.

PRESENTATIONS BY GUESTS

Yves Zsutty, the San Jose Trails Manager, reported on trail progress. Find him on Twitter @SanJoseTrails.

For the City of San Jose, the end of the fiscal year is July 1st so it is a good time to review progress of the past year. Construction & design are in progress now. Trails are becoming a tourist attraction for San Jose. In 2001 there were 20 miles of trails, now there are 57 miles of trails, and the goal for 2030 is 100+ miles of class I off-road trails and 400 miles of bikeways including bike lanes and sharrows.

San Jose Trails has performed benchmarking against similar cities: Davis, Portland, Minneapolis, and Austin. San Jose only counts 12' wide off-road trails. Davis has had many amazing bike projects and they are a city to watch. Portland and Minneapolis claim to have more trails, but they use a looser definition of trail. Austin defines trails the way we do and they have just 30 miles.

Yves highlighted the importance to the City's trail network of the Eastern Extension of the Three Creeks Trail as the only east-west cross-town trail, and described a number of the obstacles to implementation: land acquisition, lack of funds, transit corridor crossings. He described what several other cities have implemented in similar situations, and presented a grand vision, called Sky Lane.

New projects: \$19 million annual budget. Six project were highlighted at Coyote Creek, Doerr Parkway, & Penitencia Creek. On the Three Creeks Trail design is nearly complete and construction will start in October.

There are four tools that the public can access to see the ongoing progress of trail development in San Jose: Annual report; Strategic Plan, Climate Study. For the Sky Lane Vision Study for the 3CT see <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/58152>.

Mike Flaughner, an Open Space Authority Director, spoke about the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Assisted by **Joel Gartland**. Both are members of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council Board.

This presentation was about the Bay Area Ridge Trail – which runs along the first ridge coming up from San Francisco Bay. Currently there are 367 miles out of 550 miles. This group is advocating for connecting all the

many regional park systems and trail systems. The group does not own any trails, but advocates for connecting trail systems. Ideally, the trails would be open to all non-motorized users: hikers, bikers, and equestrians, although some trails are limited to specific uses.

The project was started in 1988. In 1990 the 100th mile was reached and in 2006 the 300th mile was reached. The 25th anniversary was in 2014, which is when the group reached the 350th mile. For the future, 270 more miles are planned.

The group has many events along the trail. One is the annual 5 day hike on the ridge trail with volunteers to assist with equipment and cooking. Look for the Carquinez Straights Loop Trail. On the Penitencia Trail, the Ridge Trail passes right through a BART station. There are a lot of great projects and events that the group is working on. The first Sat in Nov is the Ridge Trail Service Day; last year, there were 600 people working at 18 different sites. The last Sat in April is the Ridge to Bridge event: busses take the public into Marin county, where they can hike back to the Golden Gate Bridge. Visit RidgeTrail.org for more info.

Advocacy Efforts

Meeting with CalTrain

President **Bill Rankin** reported on a meeting with the City and CalTrain. CalTrain is planning to replace the bridge over the Los Gatos Creek that the trains cross, between the San Jose Diridon Station and the San Jose Tamian Station. For decades the city has been planning to construct a trail following the corridor of the Los Gatos Creek under the bridge in question. However it now appears that the current design will require that the trail be placed so close to the creek bed that it will have to be closed for several weeks each year because of high-water events. CalTrain has already started bidding on the project. Attendees included **Larry Ames, Jean Dresden, Yves Zsutty, Ken Yeager,** and **Kierin Kelly** (from Yeager's office). From CalTrain: **Rafael Bollin**, Project Engineer; **Jill Gibson**, Planner; **Lirea Larano**, Director of Engineering & Construction; and **Brent Tietjen**, Director of Public Relations.

Three Creeks Trail Cleanups

SOT Board Member, **Richard Silva**, is coordinating continuous trail cleanups on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Meet at 6:30pm till sunset on Bird, south of Willow, south of the Walgreens. The next gatherings are 8/10/2016 and 9/14/2016.

Minutes

Minutes were approved for May 2016 (6 ayes, 3 abstentions) and March 2016 (7 ayes, 2 abstentions). Draft minutes have been posted for July 2015, January and March 2016. Minutes are needed for November 2015.

Treasurer's Report

\$3410.56 in all accounts

New Issues

Bill will discuss outreach efforts with vice-president Joan, including Day on the Bay. Viva Calle. Community Tools for Building a Better Tomorrow.

SOT Board member Domingo Candelas announced that on Saturday August 15th, 8:45am sponsored by Senator Beall, a cleanup of the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Meet at Campbell Park between Campbell & Gilman Ave. For more info visit <http://v.ht/TVSN>

Jean Dresden suggested that Save Our Trails should consider advocating the use of downtown park charter funds to help fund the Coyote Creek Trail through Kelley Park, seeing as that trail segment would be within three miles of downtown.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 26, 2016, at 7:00 pm, at the Willow Glen Library community room.