

# Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes  
Board Meeting  
Monday, November 14, 2016  
Willow Glen Public Library  
1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm

### **Attendance**

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

Directors Absent: Bertha Ward, Domingo Candelas, Joan Bohnett

Visitors: Jean-Marie -- trail enthusiast; Nohely --from the Mayor's office; Larry Ames – neighborhood advocate.

### **Minutes**

Minutes were approved by a vote of 6 to 1 for September 2016.

### **President's Report**

Bill's appearance on Valley Politics has been posted to YouTube and will be added to our website. The SOT piece is in the Valley Politics Nov 2016 segment at about 17:54 minutes in. <https://youtu.be/w5-fDcxITSg?t=17m52s>

Yves Zsutty has reported that the construction of the Western Reach of the Three Creeks Trail to Minnesota Ave will start in April 2017.

### **Treasurer's Report**

\$3,336.56 in all accounts. The board voted unanimously to reimburse the treasurer for the fee to renew our corporate registration with the state of California.

### **New Issues**

Bill and Martin attended the Bay Area Trails Collaborative meeting in San Francisco in September. At the meeting they learned that a bike lane will be opened provisionally on the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge starting in December.

Martin discussed writing a advocacy letter for the Highway 237 bikeway to add a better connection near Lafayette Street. The group also discussed a letter supporting an improvement to the trail in East Palo Alto that leads to the Dumbarton Bridge. Although this trail is in San Mateo County (outside our mission area), we will support it for the sake of continuity with the Bay Trail in north Santa Clara County.

We discussed an issue first raised by Larry Ames regarding language in our By-Laws that appeared to pose some difficulties for the Nominating Committee, because of the overlap of the terms of service of Officers and Members-at-Large on the Board, and the overlap between the terms of the President and Vice-President. Martin proposed an approach to resolve the conflict without having to modify the By-Laws. Larry indicated however that the Nominating Committee was able to continue its work within the existing framework. We therefore agreed to drop the issue.

There was a discussion of a proposal for a developer to build a section of the Los Gatos Creek Trail from Santa Clara Street to the sidewalk next to the Light Rail track. The proposal was considered at the Parks Commission meeting Nov 2, and is likely proceeding to full council later in a few weeks. The Board approved the project, and Martin volunteered to write a letter of support when the time is appropriate. Staff report with all diagrams can be found at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/61699>

Bill made a report about a trail near Winfield Rd and Almaden Park near Almaden Lake next to 8 acres recently purchased by the Santa Clara County OSA. The parcel is owned by Valley Christian Schools (694-01-032). There are 20 acres of private open space. The developer wants to develop one acre of open space and put in a trail head and donate the remaining 19 acres to the city. The Committee for Green Foothills and local community groups object to the plan. The planning commission will revisit the Winfield project 6:30pm Nov 16 at San Jose City Hall. A story has been published in the Willow Glen Resident of Nov 11. Because of the objections to the plan, the board decided to stand by and not advocate for the trail there.

Bill proposed attending different district leadership groups. He will look for information on the groups and will report back to the board.

Heather offered to write welcome notes to new city council members.

The board discussed the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting which will tentatively take place March 20th. Locations were discussed including previous locations, our normal location at the Willow Glen Library, or the Assyrian Church near Tamian Station. Larry Ames is the head of the nomination committee and asked that all board members contact him with any changes and nominations.

Heather initiated a discussion about the Los Gatos Creek trail from Lonus to Gregory to Del Monte dog park. She reports that there is substantial trash on that trail, possibly associated with the homeless population. Martin proposed that she should write to [park.concerns@sanjose.ca.gov](mailto:park.concerns@sanjose.ca.gov). The board discussed who is responsible for clean-up on a trail that passes through multiple jurisdictions, and who a trail user should contact to report camping detritus on the trail.

Larry reported on the tour of Coyote Meadows that he lead on Nov 12 at 10:30am to noon. About 30 people attended. Attendees included San Jose Council Member Tan Nguyen, Open Space Authority board member Darcy Moore, members of the Bay Area Ridge Trail board and other interested organizations. They walked to the top of the landfill to see the view of downtown and visualize possibilities.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, January 16, 2017, at 7:00 pm, at the Willow Glen Library community room.