



**Minutes**  
**Save Our Trails Meeting**  
**Monday, December 6, 2010**  
**Willow Glen Baptist Church**

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Taisia McMahon, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, and Bruce Tichinin (making a quorum).

Directors with pre-announced Absence

Roland LeBrun, Shirley Nakamiyo

Directors Absent

Gina America, Rick Hernandez

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Nancy Ianni

Visitors in Attendance

Ralph Portillo, Lorena Vidrio

Introductions

Visitors Ralph Portillo and Lorena Vidrio introduced themselves as residents of the Five-Wounds neighborhood of San Jose (around the church at 28<sup>th</sup> and Santa Clara), and explained their interest in seeing the right of way of the abandoned railroad going through the neighborhood being used as a trail. This section of railroad line is actually the northward continuation of the Willow Glen Spur ROW from Kelley Park to Santa Clara Street. (North of Santa Clara Street, the ROW will be used by the future BART link.) A trail on that section of ROW would link up with the Three Creeks Trail.

**A motion was made** and seconded that SAVE OUR TRAILS take a position in favor of having San Jose's Envision 2040 Task Force designate the Five Wounds section of ROW a park/trail in the San Jose General Plan. **The motion was unanimously approved.** Martin volunteered to attend the Envision 2040 meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> as a representative of SOT and present our position.

## Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 1, 2010 were unanimously approved.

## Directors' Reports

Treasurer:

Last month we had a balance of \$337.63 plus \$15 received from a new member.

## Responding to mailing list

Ralph Portillo informed the group that email to [info@saveourtrails-scc.org](mailto:info@saveourtrails-scc.org) received no response. Mary Ellen said she would ensure that all addresses appearing on the web site go to a specific person; that person is responsible for responding. Taisia agreed that mail to [saveourtrails@gmail.com](mailto:saveourtrails@gmail.com) needs responding to; during her period of leave, she had not gotten around to checking that. Taisia said that in the future she will check that mail inbox at least once a week and forward the mail to someone to respond.

## Envision 2040

Jack reported that the November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the San Jose Envision 2040 Task Force generated a statement, which he distributed, in strong support of the inclusion of trails in the city's General Plan.

## Committee Reports

Governance Committee:

- (a) The Committee generated a set of suggestions for improving the efficiency of SOT meetings. (See Attachment A).
- (b) The Committee noted that the procedure should be started to prepare for and hold the second General Meeting with the associated election of the Board and Officers. Larry Ames and Nancy Ianni had earlier been appointed as two members of the Nominating Committee. They were tasked with choosing other members of the Nominating Committee (which should have between three and five members), devising procedures for the upcoming election, reporting their recommendations to the Board at the February meeting, nominating a slate of board members and officers for election, and reporting that slate to the Board at the February meeting.
- (c) The Committee recommended that the annual General Meeting be held in March. (It would be March 7 in 2011.)

Bill said that he will contact Lars Thurfjell to confirm his willingness to serve on the Board, and would report back to the Nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the annual General Meeting be the first meeting in March every year.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### Current Issues

Taisia raised a concern about keeping emails directed to Board Members confidential. The following motion was made a seconded: No Member shall forward any email addressed to SAVE OUR TRAILS Board Members to any outside party without the explicit *a priori* authorization of the Board. **The Motion passed unanimously.**

### Outreach Committee

A new Outreach Committee was formulated. The following Board Members volunteered to serve: Martin Delson, Jack Nadeau, and Bill Rankin. Bill said he will call Rick Hernandez, who earlier expressed interest in the activities, to see if Rick will join the Committee,

Jack said he would post a notice in the Willow Glen Resident in advance of each Board Meeting. If the meeting is a typical working board meeting (in contrast to a meeting of general public interest), he will identify it as a "Working Board Meeting."

### Finance and Fundraising Committee

The previous Finance Committee was renamed and its scope expanded to include fundraising activities. Bill Rankin said he would join Mary Ellen Petrich on the Committee.

### Governance Committee

The motion agendized for this meeting on having the secretary periodically back up critical files has been postponed to the next meeting. Martin said he would reword the motion to reflect the discussion; namely, that the Secretary and the Treasurer are instructed to transmit a copy of their critical files to each other periodically, and each shall retain a back-up copy of both sets of critical files.

### New Issues

Larry Ames reported on a statement by Supervisor George Shirakawa at the most recent quarterly meeting of the District 6 Leadership Council where Shirakawa expressed concern about SAVE OUR TRAILS support for the implementation of the full reach of the Three Creeks Trail, including specifically the segment east of SR-87.

Larry was reminded of the specific resolution to that effect (see the Minutes of 11/1/2010). It was suggested that Larry draft a letter to be sent by the President to Supervisor Shirakawa ensuring him of our support, and quoting that resolution. (Martin said he would email a copy of the resolution to Larry for Larry to use in drafting his letter.)

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday evening, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

## **Appendix: Abbreviations**

CSJ = The City of San Jose  
LGCT = Los Gatos Creek Trail  
OSA = Open Space Authority  
ROW = right-of-way  
SCVWD = Santa Clara Valley Water District  
SVBC = Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition  
SOT = SAVE OUR TRAILS  
WGNA = Willow Glen Neighborhood Association  
3CT = The Three Creeks Trail

## **Attachment A**

### **Suggestions for improving the efficiency of SOT meetings**

1. Before the meeting, the chair (the President or designee), will plan out a time allotment for each item on the agenda.
2. At the start of the meeting, the chair will remind participants of the rules governing the conduct of the meeting. Initially, we suggest the following rules:
  - a. The chair will adhere to the agenda. If anyone raises an item that is not on the agenda, the chair will ask that discussion be considered under “other business”.
  - b. The chair will recognize everyone who wants to speak on an issue before board members speak for a second time.
3. If the chair determines that discussion of an item is taking substantially more than its allotted time, he or she will call for a vote (possibly after allowing a fixed number of additional people to be heard on the issue.)
4. We will try to avoid having “deferred” items on the agenda. Items on the agenda will either be decided at the meeting, assigned to a subcommittee for a recommendation, or else dropped. If no one volunteers to work on the subcommittee, then the item will be dropped.
5. If a subcommittee reports back with a set of recommendations, Board Members may pose questions to the subcommittee, a motion may be made, and the chair will allow a discussion within the timeframe allotted by the agenda. If a recommendation was not accepted, the subcommittee should meet again and continue working to try to reach an acceptable solution, hopefully with the additional input from Board members who objected to the initial recommendation.