

Minutes, Save Our Trails General Meeting
Saturday, February 20, 2010
Willow Glen Baptist Church

Attendance

Gina America, Larry Ames, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Debby Erwin, Rick Hernandez, Roland LeBrun, , Taisia McMahan, Jack Nadeaux (for the last half only), Shirley Nakamiyo , Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, Bruce Tichinin, Richard Zapelli.

Taisia acted as chair.

Introductions

Those in attendance briefly introduced themselves.

By-Laws

Taisia noted that the By-Laws were placed on the Agenda for discussion, but Martin pointed out that the By-Laws were discussed and approved at the meeting of December 19th, 2009. As no one raised any further By-Law issue for discussion, the topic was closed.

Membership

Those in attendance who had not yet become members were encouraged to pay dues (\$15 plus whatever donation they wanted to make) and become members to be able to vote for officers. All persons in attendance, with the exception of Debby, were signed on as members. (Debby also became a member at the end of the meeting, but not in time to participate in the election.)

Election of Officers

The following candidates for office were nominated:

President: Taisia McMahan
Vice-President: Bill Rankin
Secretary: Martin Delson and Shirley Nakamiyo
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Petrich

The motion was made that Taisia be elected as President, Bill as Vice President, and Mary Ellen as Treasurer by acclamation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ballots were then distributed for an election for Secretary. Martin was elected.

In summary, the following officers were elected:

President: Taisia McMahan
Vice-President: Bill Rankin
Secretary: Martin Delson
Treasurer: Mary Ellen Petrich

Election of Board Members

Larry Ames, Debby Erwin and Richard Zapelli indicated that they did not wish to be Board Members.

The active membership then voted and elected the following at-large members of the Board of Directors:

- Gina America
- Joan Bohnett
- Rick Hernandez
- Roland LeBrun
- Jack Nadeaux
- Shirley Nakamiyo
- Richard Silva
- Bruce Tichinin

Report on San Jose City Council Decision

Taisia reported that the San Jose City Council voted to officially change the name “Willow Glen Spur Trail” to “Three Creeks Trail” in city documents including the GreenPrint. It was felt that the old name might give citizens the erroneous impression that the trail would serve only residents of Willow Glen. The new name was felt to better represent the function of the trail in providing east-west connectivity between three major existing north-south trail networks.

Meeting on acquiring the property along the route of the Three Creeks Trail Right of Way

Taisia reported that she, Bruce, and Larry met with the Three Creeks Trail Focus Group.

Money available for Implementation of the Three Creeks Trail

There was a discussion of the source and availability of public moneys for the implementation of the Three Creeks Trail. After some discussion, Roland, Bruce, and Larry agreed that the allocated funds can be roughly counted as follows:

From Santa Clara County	\$ 6 million
From San Jose Parks & Recreation	\$ 2 million
From the Open Space Authority	20%, the portion allocated for urban open space, of the \$30 million unclaimed from residents’ refunds, amounting to \$6 million
Total	\$14 million

Presentation on Non-Profit Status

In the April meeting, Roland and Jennifer will make a presentation on the issues related to the choice between a 501(c)(4) status (i.e. a not-for profit “social welfare organization”) and a 501(c)(3) status (tax-deductable non-profit.)

Coyote-Los Alamitos Canal Trail

Roland suggested that the SAVE OUR TRAILS website be modified to replace the tab that says "THREE-CREEKS TRAIL" with one that says "TRAIL PROJECTS". Clicking on that tab will then open a pull down list with the Three Creeks Trail, the Coyote-Los Alamitos Canal Trail, and other trails that we are working on.

Roland again presented a brief overview of the history of the canal and the plans for the associated trail. He suggested that SAVE OUR TRAILS focus for now on the ¼-mile segment that the County closed in 2007.

The group again endorsed the decision made at the meeting of December 19th, namely, that SAVE OUR TRAILS study the issues related to the implementation of the Coyote-Los Alamitos Canal Trail in south San Jose. Roland assured the group that adding the project to those we are working on will bring additional people to our organization.

S-EIR for Ballpark

Richard Zapelli informed us that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the proposed ball park does not show either the Three Creeks Trail or the Los Gatos Creek Trail in their plans. Richard and Bruce said they will collaborate on preparing a letter commenting on the absence of the trail.

Next Meetings

Taisia has reserved the Church for meetings the third Saturday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 20th, 2010, and subsequent meetings on 4/17, 5/15, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21, 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, and 12/18.

The meeting was adjourned.