



Minutes
Save Our Trails Meeting
Saturday, August 21, 2010
Willow Glen Baptist Church

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Rick Hernandez, Roland LeBrun, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, and Bruce Tichinin (making a quorum).

Directors absent were: Gina America, Taisia McMahan, Shirley Nakamiyo, Mary Ellen Petrich, and Richard Silva.

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Richard Zapelli

Visitors in Attendance

Carlos Babcock, Jean Dresden, Laura Romero

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2010 were unanimously approved, as amended. The minutes of the meeting of July 17, 2010 were approved by a vote of 4 to 0, with 3 abstentions.

Treasurer's Report

Martin presented the Treasurer's report in Mary Ellen's absence, reporting the following:

At the start of Aug we had a balance of \$361

We paid \$105 for room rental for June, July, and August

We had donations of \$106.47.

The current balance is \$362.47

Motion to apply for 501(c)(4) status

A motion was made and seconded to spend up to \$300 to apply for 501(c)(4) not-for-profit "social welfare organization" status from the IRS. Martin volunteered to donate any amount that the fee exceeds \$300 for the application. The motion was unanimously approved.

Developments

Purchase of Three Creeks Trail Right of Way

Bruce and Roland reported that the Open Space Authority approved the contribution of an additional \$1 million dollars toward the purchase of the western half of the right-of-way of the Three Creeks Trail. Together with prior contributions from the OSA, plus contributions from the County, the City of San Jose, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District, it appears that enough funds have been pledged to purchase the ROW from the Union Pacific RR.

Meeting with Supervisor Shirakawa

Bruce reported that on the previous Wednesday (8/18/10) he, Taisia, and Larry Ames, along with Heather Lerner, the Executive Officer of Happy Hollow, met with Supervisor Shirakawa by invitation, at which time SAVE OUR TRAILS representatives assured the Supervisor that even if the western half of the trail right of way is successfully purchased, our organization will continue to vigorously advocate for the implementation of the full trail, including the eastern reach from the Guadalupe River to Coyote Creek.

Next Tuesday (8/24/2010) the Board of Supervisors will meet regarding a staff report the parkland acquisition.

Future Meetings at which SAVE OUR TRAILS may wish to participate

Wed., Sep 1: San Jose City Parks and Recreation Commission

Thur., Sep 16: County Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation Committee (HLUET)

Tue., Sep 28: County Board of Supervisors

Right-of-Way Clean-Up Meeting

We discussed the issue of preserving trees when the railway cleans up the right-of-way. It was pointed out that many trees now growing on the ROW are "Tree of Heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima*), a rapidly growing invasive species. All these trees should be removed.

It was suggested that members write to Mr. Berna-Hicks, the project manager, asking that an inventory be made of all trees that should be preserved, and that the inventory be publicized for public comment before any trees are removed.

Jean Dresden made a presentation on the intersection of Bird and Willow Street, asking for the support of SAVE OUR TRAILS for requiring the contractor to narrow the intersection and clean up the underlying soil as part of the general clean-up effort. Bruce responded that he did not think it advisable for SAVE OUR TRAILS to raise the issue, praiseworthy though it may be, since it did not fall strictly under our charter of promoting the trails and would raise the cost of the project.

Trestle Issues

The Willow Glen Neighborhood Association (WGNA) met with the Preservation Action Council of San Jose (PACSJ) and with Rod Diridon to look into designating three trestles on the right of way (one over each "creek") as historical landmarks. A motion was made to form a subcommittee to seek historical landmark designation for the trestles. The counter-suggestion was made that Joan look into this issue and report to the Board at the next meeting. Joan accepted the assignment.

Date for next meetings

The next meeting will be Saturday, September 18th at 10:00 am.

Because of the difficulty of many board members and members of the general public in attending meetings on Saturday mornings, alternative meeting dates were investigated, and it was concluded that the best time for subsequent meetings would be the first Monday each month.

The meeting was adjourned.