



**Minutes**  
**Save Our Trails Meeting**  
**Monday, October 4, 2010**  
**Willow Glen Baptist Church**

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

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

Members in Attendance

Carlos Babcock, Richard Zapelli

Visitors in Attendance

Lars Thurfjell

Maternity Leave

Taisia asked to be placed on maternity leave for about two months. She said that she will not be participating in SOT business during this period, and confirmed that Bill will be able to take over in her absence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 18, 2010 were unanimously approved as amended.

Directors' Reports

President:

Taisia reported that she and Bruce with Yves Zsutty and Matt Cano of CSJ Dep't of Parks & Recreation on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

- They discussed the concerns voiced by various Directors of the Open Space Authority regarding the City's management of the Three Creeks Trail project. In response, the city sent a letter to Bill Parkin, acting head of the Open Space Authority, promising to send in an official application for \$1.8 million for the trail. Bruce said that he would distribute that letter.
- Taisia and Bruce feel that the city is now 100% on board with this project.

- Yves said that he will come to a future SOT meeting to discuss trail issues.
- Regarding the clean-up of the right-of-way, contaminated soil around the roots of twelve specific trees will be removed and replaced with clean soil. One particular oak tree near the trestle will have to be removed because (a) it is too close to the center line; (b) it interferes with a staging area; and (c) it presents a security issue because it blocks view of potential hiding areas in the creek.

Treasurer:

Last month we had a balance of \$362.47. Since then we had income of \$24 in coffee donations (minus a small PayPal fee) and expenses of \$105.00 for room rental for September, October, and November, for a balance of approx. \$ 281.

#### Email accounts

Mary Ellen suggested that we close the [elist@saveourtrails-scc.org](mailto:elist@saveourtrails-scc.org) account as it is hardly used. No objection was voiced to doing so.

The question was then raised about the large number of notifications that were being sent. Taisia said that gmail had the largest number of participants and was the major means of communicating with the community at large who were not on the SOT mailing lists.

Martin stated he was troubled by us calling all persons on the gmail list as “Members” when they had not signed up as such. He suggested that we state our intention to close the list as of some date (e.g. Jan 1, 2011), and that will automatically enroll all persons on the list as Associate Members ( non-dues-paying, non-voting), allowing them to opt out if they do not want to be a Member.

Taisia asked that we defer further discussion of this issue.

#### Oct 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Open Space Authority

The 10/14 meeting of the OSA is critical to the implementation of the Three Creeks Trail, as CSJ is \$1million short of the funds needed to purchase the ROW.

- A large turn-out at this meeting is essential for persuading the Board to allocate the further \$1million.
- Bruce asked for volunteers to call various members of the board to confirm their vote and to ask them if they had any concerns that we could allay. Roland, Joan, and Bill volunteered to do that.
- Bruce asked for persons with links to outside organizations (e.g. WGNA, Committee for Green Foothills, Riverglen PTA, SVBC, etc.) to ask them to come to the meeting and speak in favor of the funding.

#### Oct 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission

Matt Cano will be speaking at a meeting of the CSJ Parks & Recreation Commission at Roosevelt Community Center. We called for everyone available to attend the meeting to hear his presentation.

### Suggested Meeting with San Jose Redevelopment Agency

Taisia said and Bruce had planned to meet with Kip Harkness of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency regarding the impact of the Diridon Area development on trails, and the importance of the Three Creeks Trail to that area. She will not be able to meet him, however, and asked for others to volunteer to do so. Bill, Martin, and Carlos indicated an interest in meeting with Kip. Martin will be out until the third week of October however. Taisia said she would forward the email to Bill, and ask him to schedule the meeting.

Martin said that he had a specific issue that he wanted to bring up with the Agency, and asked whether SOT would support him. He stated the CSJ's current plans for the development of the LGCT in the downtown area shows it using the sidewalk and crosswalks for two segments: (a) where the Creek is in a culvert under Montgomery Street and Park Avenue (near the fire department yard); and (b) along Autumn Street and across Santa Clara Street (near the HP Arena.) He said he wanted to advocate that the trail be separated from sidewalk and street traffic: ideally, in the green space by the creek; or alternatively, on a bridge to cross these busy streets.

There was some discussion about the reasons for planning the sidewalk placement of the trail. Rick questioned whether there might be an issue with the SCVWD. Others said that although practical considerations may make such a placement impossible, nevertheless we should clearly state our position about the best location for trails.

A motion was made to define that it is the position of SOT that the LGCT should be separated from pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk and vehicular traffic on streets. The motion was carried unanimously (11-0-0).

The suggestion was made that SOT should take the position that, in general, all trails should be separated from pedestrian traffic on the sidewalk and vehicular traffic on streets. This was not acted on.

Richard Zapelli pointed out that the issue of the placement of the LGCT is complicated by the fact that the State is relinquishing control of Highway 82 along the Alameda in favor of its being displaced to Coleman and Autumn, and that it may be necessary to work with the state to make any changes. He suggested that the group speak with Hans Larsen, CSJ acting Director of the Department of transportation.

### Efficiency of Conducting Meetings

Mary Ellen noted that we seem to have three kinds of issues that are brought up in meetings:

- Political: Positions, government meetings, letters to officials, etc.
- SOT Business: Rules, non-profit status, finance, elections, etc.
- Outreach: Making our presence known, building membership, etc.

She suggested that we might want to divide into three separate groups, each considering each of these topics.

Taisia said that's how it was at first, with different subcommittees working of different areas, and then getting together.

Martin said he observed that the old structure seemed chaotic and inefficient: first the subcommittees would meet and discuss issues for a certain time, and then everyone would meet as a whole, and all the issues would be discussed before the whole group once again.

We agreed to defer discussion of ways to better organize our meetings.

#### Change Time of SOT Meetings

It was moved that the time of the meeting be changed from 6:30pm-8:30 pm to 7:00pm-9:00 pm, on the first Monday every month. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1 (one abstention).

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday evening, November 1<sup>st</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