



DRAFT Minutes
Save Our Trails Meeting
Monday, November 1, 2010
Willow Glen Baptist Church

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

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

Directors on Approved Leave

Roland LeBrun, Taisia McMahan

Directors Absent

Gina America, Rick Hernandez

Members in Attendance

None

Visitors in Attendance

None

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 4, 2010 were unanimously approved.

It was agreed that minutes would continue to be distributed only to Board Members, but that the minutes, once approved, would be posted on the SOT web site.

Directors' Reports

Vice-President:

- Bill and Roland attended the "Day at the Bay" and thought our presence there would have been a good opportunity to gather supporters. We recognized we should prepare for future events such as this by preparing a banner and brochures. Bill said he will get in touch with Rick Hernandez to prepare these materials. Shirley said she would help.

Treasurer:

Last month we had a balance of \$299.62

Secretary:

The State of California has approved our application for recognition as a not-for-profit corporation.

Distribution of email addresses

Mary Ellen reminded the group about earlier discussions of whether or not to distribute Board Members' personal addresses to other Board Members. She thought this was not necessary. She moved that Board Members' email addresses and phone numbers be distributed to other Board Members. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

High Speed Rail

We noted the potential impact of the construction of the High Speed Rail in the highway 87 corridor on the east-west connectivity of the Three Creeks Trail. There will be a meeting on the issue in City Hall on November 4th. Martin agreed to post a notice about this meeting in the SOT calendar.

SOT commitment to maintain the Three Creeks Trail

Bruce moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the President of Save Our Trails, Inc. advise the City of San Jose, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and all interested parties, that Save Our Trails, Inc. intends to adopt the Three Creeks Trail, and to provide, through the labors of its members, a permanent and volunteer workforce sufficient for the perpetual maintenance of the Three Creeks Trail, in partnership with, and under the supervision of, the City of San Jose.

Martin expressed concern that the word "maintenance" could be interpreted to express a commitment to perform maintenance tasks that the organization is not capable of; e.g. repairing damaged asphalt on the trail. He was also concerned about making a long-term commitment without having a group of volunteers who have expressed a willingness to take on the job.

To assuage his first concern, the group wanted to document the following understanding:

By "maintenance" we mean work that can be provided by a volunteer work force including tasks such as picking up trash, weeding, graffiti removal, etc. but excluding any construction work or activities involving mechanical equipment.

To allay his second concern, the group referred to the large number of volunteers at the earlier Los Gatos Creek clean-up. Several members thought that trail maintenance would be a good opportunity to involve the neighbors adjacent to the trail and possibly garner additional members.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 6-2.

SOT commitment to attract partnerships

Bruce moved the following:

RESOLVED: That the President of Save Our Trails, Inc. advise the City of San Jose, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, and all interested parties, that Save Our Trails, Inc. intends to work with the City of San Jose to attract public and private partnerships as a resource for acquisition of the Three Creeks Trail alignment from Hwy 87 to Senter Road.

The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Three Creeks Trail Acquisition Status

Bruce reported that negotiations are now underway between the CSJ and UPRR on the purchase of the western alignment of the Three Creeks Trail.

Three Creeks Trail ROW Clean-up Effort

Andrew Berna-Hicks, of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the manager of the ROW clean-up, reported that the clean-up project will be delayed until the spring of 2011. This delay may cause a funding problem: if the City doesn't accept title to the property until the clean-up is completed, and if the \$800K grant from the State expires in March 2011, then that portion of the funding may be lost.

The group requested Bill to get in touch with Berna-Hicks to learn what the reasons are for the proposed delay and to see if he is aware of the problems that the delay may cause.

Three Creeks Trail ROW Tree Preservation Effort

Joan reported that the contractor now has a list of sixteen trees (not twelve) that are "affected" by the clean-up. She expressed an interest in (a) walking the ROW once more to become familiar with these trees; (b) passing out a flier to all household along the ROW informing them of clean-up efforts, specifically as relates to tree preservation; and (c) calling a community meeting to discuss the issue.

Several persons thought that this might be a good way to raise people's awareness of SAVE OUR TRAILS, and possibly expanding our membership.

Bruce was skeptical of the suggestion, thinking it might be viewed as prematurely raising an alarm. Joan did not view it that way.

Martin suggested that the meeting be not at the church, but an open-air meeting along the ROW allowing participants to ascertain the trees in question.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday evening, December 4th, 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