

# Save Our Trails!



Promoting trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all

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## Minutes

### Save Our Trails Meeting

Monday, November 21, 2011

Willow Glen Baptist Church

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### Attendance

#### Directors in Attendance

Martin Delson, Rick Hernandez , Roland LeBrun , Taisia McMahon , Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, (making a quorum).

#### Directors Absent

Joan Bohnett (excused), Lars Thurfjell (excused)

#### Directors on Leave

Shirley Rogers

#### Members in Attendance

Helen Chapman (President, Shasta Hanchett-Park Neighborhood Association)

#### Visitors in Attendance

None

### Minutes of previous meeting

Consideration of the minutes of the meeting of November 11, 2011 was deferred to the next meeting.

### Excused Absences

The motion was made and approved to excuse the absences of Joan Bohnett and Lars Thurfjell.

## **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

None

## **OFFICERS' REPORTS**

None

## **PROGRESS ON OPEN ACTION ITEMS**

Consideration of action items was deferred.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

### **Current Issues**

Taisia reported on a meeting this afternoon (Nov 21, 2011) where she, Bruce Tichinin, and Bill Rankin met with Supervisor Shirakawa and his chief of staff. They spoke for about 45 minutes on the issues raised by the "Friends of Santa Clara County's Parks, Trails, and Open Space".

Taisia also reported what she felt was a certain hesitancy on the Supervisor's part in supporting funding for the eastern extension of the Three Creeks Trail. She reported that he felt that it was necessary to construct the bridge across the railroad tracks to connect the eastern and western segment of the trail before proceeding with the purchase of the land for the eastern segment.

Taisia reported that Supervisor Shirakawa suggested that he and his staff meet with SAVE OUR TRAILS on a quarterly basis. This suggestion met with general approval. (No vote taken.)

### **Deferred Issues**

- a) Request from Don Weden to endorse the "Basic Principles" put forth by the Friends of Santa Clara County's Parks, Trails, and Open Space

After today's discussion with Supervisor Shirakawa, Bruce drafted a proposed position for SAVE OUR TRAILS and distributed this draft by email to the Board. See Appendix C for the full text.

Martin moved that we defer action on the request for endorsement of the "Friends of Santa Clara County's Parks, Trails, and Open Space" at this time. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

- b) Consideration of alternatives for handling Board email list. (Mary Ellen)

Mary Ellen asked that the Board create a defined email policy and consider having a different Board Member moderate the Board email as well. She passed around a sheet with the current settings for the Board email list. Of significance were the following settings:

- a) All Board Members can communicate directly with other Board members
- b) Other persons can email the board, but their messages will be held for moderation, and therefore will be delayed. A small number of individuals who are not on the board are permitted to email directly to the board without moderation. Individuals are added to this list as needed.
- c) The maximum size of an email is variable, but is currently limited to 4 MB.

d) Emails that are larger than 4MB are held for moderation.

In order to alleviate Mary Ellen’s concerns and reduce some of the burden on her for moderating the list, Martin proposed a set of motions. (Mary Ellen recused herself from voting, as she is currently the email moderator.)

Martin moved that the Board assume the responsibility for setting policy for the SOT Board email list. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

Martin then moved that the Board temporarily adopt the current set of policies. Roland amended the proposal to change the maximum size of an email from 4 MB to 10 MB. The amendment was accepted, and the amended motion passed by a vote of 6-0-1.

Mary Ellen then raised the issue about what the moderator should do when an email is rejected because its size exceeds 10 MB. After some discussion, Martin moved that if an email is rejected because its size exceeds 10 MB but if any Board Member requests that it be allowed to be set, then it should be sent, with the understanding that there will be a time delay before the email is finally sent. This motion was passed by a vote of 5-1-1.

c) Surface of the path on the Three Creeks Trail (Rick H.)  
Deferred again

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be the regularly scheduled meeting on Monday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

**Appendix A: Open Action Items**

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
4	5/31/11	Bill R.	Send an email to the Board specifying details (size, color scheme, etc.) of the banner with proposed logo and text.	11/21
5	5/31/11	Bill R.	Get three bids for the banner and present them to the Board.	11/21
9	5/31/11	Joan	Initiate process of devising formal procedure for resignations.	12/12
19	8/8/11	Taisia	Get a letter from GRPC that states that they will act as our financial agent in grant applications, or some equivalent instrument	12/12
23	8/8/11	Martin	Send agenda of next meeting to <u>all</u> members.	11/21
26	10/17/11	Martin & Taisia	Format information from gmail list so Mary Ellen can add entries to members roster.	12/12
27	10/17/11	Bill	Schedule a meeting of the Outreach Committee	11/21

28	11/21/11	Taisia	Inform Supervisor Shirakawa about the result of the day's vote on the "Basic Principles"	11/25
29	11/21/11	Taisia	Inform Don Weden about the result of the day's vote on the "Basic Principles"	11/25

**Appendix B: Draft/Proposed SOT Position on the "Basic Principles"**

Save Our Trails is a volunteer, non-profit organization whose mission is to promote trails in Santa Clara County for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.

Our respected colleagues at Friends of the Santa Clara County Parks, Trails and Open Space ("Friends of County Parks") have asked Save Our Trails to endorse their "Basic Principles For County Parks Charter Fund Parkland Acquisitions Within Urban Areas," to wit:

***Principle #1: Consistency with Voter Intent and with County Plans and Policies***

*The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used in ways that are consistent with:*

- a. The Charter Fund ballot language approved by the voters,*
- b. The County General Plan's parks and urban development policies*
- c. The County Parks Department's Strategic Plan*

***Principle #2: Countywide Significance***

*The County Parks Charter Fund should only be used for parks and trails – in rural and urban areas – that are of countywide significance.*

***Principle #3: Parks Deficient Areas***

*High priority should be considered for proposed urban parkland acquisitions of countywide significance within or near areas that are parks deficient.*

Having carefully and conscientiously considered the request, we take the following position.

**As to Principle #1:**

- a. We agree that County Parks Charter Fund should only be used in ways that are consistent with the Charter Fund ballot language approved by the voters, but we note that the ballot language nowhere speaks of "parks of countywide significance," but only of "county parks."
- b. & c. So long as they are consistent with the Charter Fund ballot language, the content of both the County General Plan and the Parks Department Strategic Plan is up to the Board of Supervisors.

**As to Principles #2 and #3:**

We have not been presented in Principle #2 with a definition of the difference between parks and trails of that are of “countywide significance” and those that are not, and therefore believe we have been asked to take a position without having been given all the information required to intelligently do so.

Nevertheless, the language of Principle #3 acknowledges the existence of “parks deficient” urban areas. This prompts us to say:

First, we believe it should be considered a “parks [issue] of countywide significance” that any substantial urban area in the county is “parks deficient.”

Second, it seems only fair and logical that, until the deficiency is eliminated, any acquisition of parkland that contributes in a large way or small way to curing such a county deficiency should be entitled to higher priority in the use of County Park Charter Funds than other park uses.

Finally, our communications with our respected colleagues in the Friends of County Parks leads us to believe that a concern that has prompted their Basic Principles is that the needed annexation of “unincorporated islands” into cities would be discouraged by acquisition and maintenance of parks in such unincorporated islands by County funds.

We believe this concern could be eliminated by slightly modified use of the model we have seen employed recently for the 3 Creeks Trail (and which we must believe has been used before), i.e., that the Board would require, for use of Charter Funds in such situations, that: (1) the unincorporated island be annexed to the surrounding city, (2) title to the parkland acquired be vested in the city, and (3) the city assume all maintenance/service costs for the park (much of which could be performed by citizen volunteers, as will be the case with the 3 Creeks Trail).