

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2012

Willow Glen Baptist Church

ADMINISTRATION

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Corinne Asturias, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Jake Jacobson, Scott Lane, Roland LeBrun, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin(making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Taisia McMahan, Lars Thurfjell, Richard Silva

Members in Attendance

David Ginsberg

Visitors in Attendance

Frances Reyes, of the office of Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio.

In Taisia's absence, Bill chaired the meeting.

Minutes Approved

The minutes of the meeting of April 9, 2012 were approved.

Excused Absences

The absences of Taisia, Lars, and Richard were excused.

Changes to the Agenda

At Joan's request, New Issue (h) was placed first.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

President's Report (reported by Bill)

Taisia and Bill met with Assembly Member Paul Fong and his assistant, Leslie. They reported that the Assembly Member is excited about the Three Creeks Trail.

- Member Fong suggested there may be "Roberti Z'Berg-Harris" (RZH) grant program funds available for trail construction.
- Member Fong and Leslie requested a tour of the Three Creeks trail. (See below)
- Member Fong suggested that we talk to Facebook to see if they would contribute funds for trail purchase.
- Member Fong also suggested that we talk with Representative Zoe Lofgren to see if federal funds could be made available for the trail.
- Finally, Member Fong suggested that we meet with Carl Guardino, President and CEO of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, to solicit their support.

The Board discussed several alternatives for organizing another tour of the route of the Three Creeks Trail. Joan suggested we publicize it to all members. David suggested that we invite council members along. Another member said that if we make a tour open to the public, it may be a good opportunity to publicize our organization and gain new members. Martin cautioned that the logistics of a large tour may be difficult to arrange, especially if open to the general public. Another member said that we should concentrate first on meeting the request of Assembly Member Fong and his staff.

Vice-President's Report

Bill reported that he and Mary Ellen met with Molly Tobias of the City of San Jose Department of Parks and Recreation regarding volunteering for trail maintenance. He said, Molly also expressed an interest in taking a tour of the trail.

There are two kinds of volunteers:

- Long-term volunteers. These take a training program, sign a contract, and receive some equipment (litter sticks, gloves, plastic bags, etc.), and are expected to perform their tasks on a regular basis. When SOT signs up to maintain the Three Creeks Trail, we have to promise at least 2 hours of work per month as a group.
- Day volunteers. These sign up for a specific job for just several hours on a specific day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee had met or had anything to report.

There was general agreement among Board Members that too much of the time spent at Board Meetings is taken up by discussions that is best handled by in committees by Members willing to take on specific assignments. There was general agreement on the importance of reinvigorating the committees, having them perform their tasks, and reporting back their results to the general meeting.

Martin reminded the Board of the following Policy adopted on 2/7/2011:

If a subcommittee reports back with a set of recommendations, Board Members may pose questions to the subcommittee, a motion may be made, and the chair will allow a discussion within the timeframe allotted by the agenda. If a recommendation was not accepted, the subcommittee should meet again and continue working to try to reach an acceptable solution, hopefully with the additional input from Board members who objected to the initial recommendation.

One problem in getting committees to meet is that currently no single person is recognized as having the authority to call a meeting. For this reason, the Board decided to nominate a temporary chair for several committees, and to give that person the assignment of calling a committee meeting before the next Board meeting, and reporting back to the Board on decisions made at the committee meeting. (As a first order of business, the committee may choose a permanent chair.)

The following committees had the named Member assigned as chair:

- Finance and Fundraising Committee: Mary Ellen Petrich
- Outreach Committee: Martin Delson
- Three Creeks Trail Clean-up and Adoption Committee: Bill Rankin

CURRENT ISSUES

a) Status of Action Items

Eight Action Items were closed since the last meeting, but nine more remain open. Jake's name was substituted for Mary Ellen in the two Action Items dealing with preparing business cards.

b) Proposed policy on approving expenditures by email

At the previous meeting, Martin was tasked with proposing a specific policy to allow the Board to approve urgent expenditures (such as arose in preparing for the General Meeting) by email. He drafted the following policy, which he put forward as a motion:

No member shall expend any money or make any monetary commitment on behalf of the organization without prior approval of the Board. In urgent situations, where it is necessary to disperse money for purposes of the Organization before the next meeting of the Board, a request for approval of the expenditure may be sent by email to all Board Members, and Board Members polled by email. The request shall state the amount and the purpose of the expenditure. If a quorum responds, and a majority responds affirmatively, then that will be considered as authorization for the expenditure in question. However, if two or more Board Members object (even if a majority are in favor), the expenditure of Organization funds may not be made without majority approval after discussion at a Board meeting.

The motion was seconded, and the policy approved by a vote of 8-0 with one abstention.

NEW ISSUES

a) Community Garden Plot

The Board considered the offer of the Willow Glen Baptist Church to cultivate a plot in a community garden. Some people were interested in participating, but others expressed the view that those interested should respond as individuals. A motion was made that the Board not accept the offer of a garden plot. The motion carried by a vote of 7-1 with one abstention.

b) Letter to BART regarding the BART Bike Plan

Martin read a letter that he proposed be sent to the BART Bike Program Manager with the following two comments on the BART Bicycle Plan, "BART Bicycle Plan: Modeling Access to Transit":

First, the Bicycle Plan makes no mention of providing a bike path along the route of newly constructed tracks. There is such a bicycle path under the raised BART structure between El Cerrito del Norte and North Berkeley stations. This off-street bike path goes through a very urban neighborhood. It is a substantial benefit to cyclists and pedestrians, and it certainly helps BART attain their goal of substituting cycling for driving to the BART stations along that section of the route. The Plan should state that BART will build a similar bicycle path under any raised BART structures wherever there is new construction.

Secondly, the Plan should state that new BART construction should never cut off an existing bike way (whether a bike path, bike lane, or bike route), and that streets that have bike lanes on them or are designated bike routes should not be made narrower when they cross over or under the BART tracks.)

The Board unanimously approved sending the letter to BART under the SOT name.

c) Consider email of Yves Zsutty

There was a far-ranging discussion of an email sent this month by Yves Zsutty to Taisia McMahon with suggestions on how SOT might more successfully advocate for the Three Creeks Trail. After some discussion, the Board rejected the idea of attempting to officially change the name of the Three Creeks Trail to “Cross-Town Connection Trail.” However, in advocating for the trail before elected officials, we might find it useful to refer to the trail unofficially by that moniker.

It was generally felt that Yves’s suggestions could better be discussed in the smaller sphere of a committee. To this end, a new subcommittee was formed, to be named the Acquisition Committee, with the initial mission “*To raise money for the acquisition of the Eastern Alignment of the Three Creeks Trail*”, with Scott Lane as chair, and with further members Roland, Martin, Bill, and Jack.

d) Report on the Dumbarton Bridge Rail Connection

Roland made the Board aware that there are plans to rehabilitate Dumbarton Rail including the swing bridge. Another alternative would be to tunnel under the existing bridge. If that is done, the existing railroad bridge (unused, and with a drawbridge section permanently open) would be dismantled at a cost exceeding \$100 million. Roland pointed out that the bridge could be salvaged, and dedicated to a cross-bay bike path, saving most of the expense and providing a much superior cross-bay link.

e) Tamien Area Committee

Roland moved to establish a committee with the mission to “*Devise plans and a funding strategy for connecting the Eastern and Western alignments*”. The Board voted to establish such a committee with the stated mission. Scott Lane volunteered to chair the committee, and Roland volunteered to serve. It was recommended that they see if Larry Ames was available to join them on strategizing.

f) Candidate’s Forum

Several suggestions were made regarding SOT’s role in the upcoming election. One suggestion was that we draft a questionnaire to candidates asking them about their commitment to the acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails. A second suggestion was that we host a candidate’s forum where we invite the candidates for various elected positions to discuss their positions on the issues. It was pointed out that hosting such a forum would also be a good opportunity to increase public awareness of SOT, and could result in us gathering new members.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
65	5/14/12	Bill	Speak with Lars about his attendance record	6/11
66	5/14/12	Roland	Find out where the money came from to buy the segment of land	5/14

67	5/14/12	Corinne & Taisia	Speak with Zoe Lofgren about whether Federal money might be available for trail ROW acquisition and/or trail construction	6/11
68	5/14/12	Martin	Post updated Policies on website.	5/31
69	5/14/12	Martin	Take Bruce and Shirley off the list of Directors on the web site	5/31
70	5/14/12	Martin	Transmit letter to BART Bike Manager as approved by Board	5/21
71	5/14/12	Martin	Call a meeting of the Outreach Committee and report back to Board.	6/11
72	5/14/12	Bill	Call a meeting of the Trail Clean-up and Adoption Committee and report back to Board.	6/11
73	5/14/12	Scott	Call a meeting of the Acquisition Committee and report back to Board.	6/11
73	5/14/12	Scott	Call a meeting of the Tamien Committee and report back to Board.	6/11

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday evening, June 11th, at 7:00 pm.