

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting

Monday, August 13, 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, Richard Silva, (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Taisia McMahan, Lars Thurfjell (excused)

Members in Attendance

Bill Rice

Visitors in Attendance

Melrose Cacal, of the office of Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio; plus three members of the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation:

Marvin Bamburg

Ken Middlebrook

Bob Stetson

In Taisia's absence, Bill Rankin conducted the meeting.

Presentation by the California Trolley & Railroad Corporation (CTRC)

The CTRC has been active in restoring the old trolleys that can be seen at History Park (and used to be seen tooling around downtown San Jose.) The group has preserved some of the old SP roundhouse and associated engine turntable that had been at the SP railway yard at Lenzen Avenue. They would like to rebuild these facilities, along with a railroad museum. They require a track that would connect to the mainline at some point.

The parcel they have decided would best fit their needs is essentially at the eastern end of the eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail, where the railway ROW turns north at Senter Street towards the

Five Wounds Trail. The group envisions reinstalling RR track from that point westward, sharing the ROW of the eastern alignment to reach the north-south main line near Highway 887.

The group became aware that their plans potentially conflict with the Three Creeks Trail, and that led them to make contact with us to inform us of their goals and to see if we could work together to design a plan that would be satisfactory for both groups and hopefully then allow us to work together to satisfy the mission of each group.

It was recognized that it would be difficult to meet the needs of both the trail and a museum at the site of the museum and round house, since these buildings would barely leave any space for a trail. Various SOT Directors also expressed misgivings about having a trail alongside a working railroad, both in terms of safety as well as aesthetics.

In further discussion, after the presentation, the consensus was reached that in any cooperative effort, SOT must prioritize the needs of the trail users.

A committee was formed, to be called the Railroad History Liaison Committee, to contact the members of the CTCRC and to work on a plan that would enable the missions of both organizations to be satisfied. The members of this committee are: Joan Bohnett, Jake Jacobson, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, and Richard Silva.

Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2012 were accepted with one abstention..

Excused Absences

The absence of Lars Thurfjell was excused.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

President's Report

1. T-Shirts

Bill conveyed Taisia's request that SOT order a set of T-shirts with the organization's logo.

Roland reported the results of his investigation, that white T-shirts could be bought for \$2.66 per shirt in quantities of 100 or more, and colored T-shirts for \$3.66.

Joan suggested that T-shirts might be sold at various events as a fund-raising device. Bill suggested that we might give away T-shirts, for publicity and as a reward, for volunteers who join us for trail clean-ups. Roland said that the San Jose Council District might be willing to pay for T-shirts for such events.

We decided to delegate further decisions on this issue to an ad-hoc committee. The members of the T-Shirt Committee will be Corinne Asturias, Joan Bohnett, and Jake Jacobson.

2. Trail Clean-Up
Discussion delegated to a committee.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Ellen reported \$1,552 in the bank account, unchanged from last month.

Secretary's Report

- (1) Martin reported he attempted to renew the registration of the Corporation with the California Secretary of State (due in October), but the web site did not yet permit an on-line re-registration.
- (2) Martin asked for authorization to get in touch with persons who had been assigned action items in order to remind them of their assignments and to ascertain progress. Some Directors were in favor of this action, and some felt it was unnecessary because good progress was being made in Action Items. The issue was not resolved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee

Martin reported that the Outreach Committee met in July, and summarized the progress of that group as follows:

- (1) The Committee agreed that planning for the Annual Meeting, as was done this year, interrupts and interferes with their core mission; viz "*Publicize the goals and activities of the organization and seek new members*". The Committee recommended that a separate, ad-hoc, Committee be formed whose mission would be to prepare for the Annual Meeting.
In discussion, Martin moved that an Annual Meeting Committee be formed. The motion was seconded and was approved by a vote of 8-0-1. Bill, Jack, and Mary Ellen agreed to serve on the new Committee.
- (2) The Committee asked Martin to print up more copies of the brochure for distribution to those who want additional copies.
In discussion, Jack and Corinne asked for 50 copies each, and Scott asked for 20. Martin said he would print about 200 additional copies.
- (3) The Committee thought the meeting of October 13 would be a good time to invite candidates for the SCVWD Board to make a presentation to the general public.
In discussion, there was little enthusiasm for hosting a Candidates' evening, and the idea was dropped.
- (4) The Committee noted that another opportunity to publicize the organization was at the Day on the Bay, at the Alviso Marina, on Sunday, October 14.
In discussion, Corinne said that she would sign us up to participate. There is no cost, and the county is said to provide the table and shelter; we need to be there with our materials.

Other Committees

No other Committees reported any progress.

CURRENT ISSUES

a) Status of Action Items

Progress was noted in the disposition of the following action items:

A-38: Bill reported that the cost from the San Jose Parks foundation was \$100 for a package of 3800 doggie bags, and the dispensers cost \$80 each. Roland said that they can be purchased for less from other sources. Some Directors expressed skepticism about the value to SOT of providing doggie bags. Item closed.

A-55: Assigned a due date of Sept 4.

A-56 and A-57: Completed

A-65: Assigned a due date of August 20.

A-66: Assigned a due date of August 31.

A-67: Assigned a due date of September 30.

A-71: Completed

A-72: Assigned a due date of August 20.

A-73: Removed because of lack of time to follow up.

A-75: Completed: Corinne reported that she attempted to contact five NACs along the eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail, viz: (a) Washington Area; (b) McLaughlin Corridor; (c) Alma; (d) Rock Springs; and (e) Senter Road Creekside, and was successful in establishing contact with the latter three.

A-76: Work delegated to the newly-formed T-Shirt Committee. Jake did report via email a revised design of the SOT letterhead, adding a person pushing a stroller to the trail users shown in the letter head. Joan moved that the Board approve the new design for the official SOT letterhead. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0 with one abstention. The new letterhead was used at the head of these minutes.

A-78 and A-79: Completed

A-80: Deleted because of lack of time to prepare for a General Meeting in September.

A-81: Completed.

NEW ISSUES

1. Should SOT buy a projector?

Corinne said that she had a small projector that SOT could borrow when needed. For this reason, as well as our limited funds, we decided to not purchase one at this time.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

| No. | Date | Who | Action | Due |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 84 | 8/13/12 | Bill | Follow up with Larry Ames regarding anything that Save Our Trails might have promised to do for Sam Liccardo. | 8/31 |
| 85 | 8/13/12 | Martin | Print approx. 200 copies of the brochure. | 8/31 |
| 86 | 8/13/12 | Corinne | Sign us up to participate in Day on the Bay at the Alviso Marina on Sunday, October 14. | 8/31 |
| 87 | 8/13/12 | Martin | Check whether SGNA is sponsoring a debate by candidates for the SCVWD Board, and if so, inform the Membership of the particulars of that event. | 8/31 |

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday evening, September 10th, at 7:00 pm.