

# Save Our Trails!



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

## Minutes

### Save Our Trails Meeting

Monday, September 10, 2012

Willow Glen Baptist Church

## ADMINISTRATION

### Attendance

#### Directors in Attendance

Corinne Asturias, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Taisia McMahon, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Lars Thurfjell, (making a quorum).

#### Directors Absent

Jake Jacobson, Scott Lane, Roland LeBrun (excused), Richard Silva (excused)

#### Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, Thomas Schaefer, Bruce Tichinin

#### Visitors in Attendance

Liv Ames, Melrose Cacal (of the office of Councilmember Pierluigi Oliverio), David Ginsberg  
Yves Zsutty (Trails Coordinator of the City of San Jose)

### Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2012 were accepted.

### Excused Absences

The absences of Roland LeBrun and Richard Silva were excused.

## **PRESENTATION BY YVES ZSUTTY, TRAILS COORDINATOR OF THE CITY OF SAN JOSE**

1. Progress on Trails
  - 6.4 miles of the Guadalupe River Trail are currently being paved. This work is scheduled to be completed in April of 2013.
  - The Highway 237 Bikeway was improved
  - New segments were opened on the Lower Silver Creek Trail and Thompson Creek Trail

2. Information on the Three Creeks Trail
  - The City is currently studying whether it is practical to preserve the trestle over the Los Gatos Creek. Yves recognizes that the community has a certain fondness for the old trestle, but it is not recognized as a historical monument, and it has been damaged by arson. This study will be concluded in October.
  - The fencing is in place to prevent motorized access to the trail.
  - Mileage markers and trail rules will be placed next week.
  - Before finalizing the plans, the city will host three community meetings to explain to the neighborhood the plans for the trail and to get feedback on alternatives.
  - Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PDO) money contributed by developers can be spent on trail land acquisition within a 3-mile radius of the development, but there has not been much development in the vicinity of the eastern extension of the Three Creeks Trail. The asking price of UPRR for various segments is rather high; e.g. \$7.5 million for the L-shaped parcel adjacent to Senter Road.
3. Trail Count
  - Volunteers are needed to help count trail users on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. Connection to Ballermino Park
  - Martin relayed a question posed by Roland, whether the City would consider acquiring the two parcels that would allow a trail stub to be built to connect Ballermino Park (on Almaden Avenue north of the Trail crossing) to the trail itself. Yves responded that that was a worthwhile project – indeed, in the absence of funds to acquire the whole trail right-of-way, he favored these sorts of connections to other facilities – but there were also many other worthy projects competing for limited funds.

## **DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **Secretary's Report**

Martin reported that he contacted the office of the California Secretary of State and confirmed that the registration of the Corporation was indeed renewed, and that no action was necessary until next year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Outreach Committee**

Martin reported that the Outreach Committee had not met since the last Board meeting. However, he did complete the action assigned to him, namely, to print a new set of copies of the SOT brochure. He had 200 copies printed at a cost of \$43.35, and distributed numerous copies to Jack, Corinne, and Bill. He will keep the remaining copies, and will distribute them as need by other members. Martin requested a re-imbusement of the expenditure, and it was approved unanimously.

### **T-Shirt Committee**

Joan reported on the possibilities for T-shirt design and the recommendations of the Committee. By a vote of 6-1 (one abstention), the Board agreed to adopt a green cotton shirt with “Save Our Trails” and our logo in front and “Connecting Santa Clara County Communities” on the back. The Board unanimously agreed to spend a maximum of \$500 for shirt sizes in the ratio of 40% XL, 40% L, and 20% Medium.

### **Trail Adoption and Maintenance Committee**

Bill suggested several possible dates for the clean-up of the Three Creeks Trail right-of-way. To avoid conflict with Day on the Bay (Oct 14<sup>th</sup>) and Halloween (Oct 31<sup>st</sup>), we agreed that the Trail Clean Up would be on **October 20<sup>th</sup>**, from 9 AM to 12 noon. Bill said that he would inform the City of the clean-up date and coordinate with them on logistics. Corinne volunteered to put together a flier for distribution at Day on the Bay.

### **Other Committees**

No other Committees reported any progress.

### **DEFERRED ISSUES**

Martin asked the Board to define a policy that would set guidelines for the circumstances under which an Officer is permitted to contact the general Membership via email. (*Note: only the Officers have the ability to send messages to the full Membership.*) The general feeling was that the number of messages should be restricted to only the most important information; the web site and Facebook already offer a means to present information of a more general nature. (*Note: according to a policy adopted earlier, we already send the agendas of meeting to the full Membership.*)

The following policy was unanimously adopted: Officers shall contact the Membership by email for political action only on issues directly related to SAVE OUR TRAILS business.

### **STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS**

Status changes were noted in the disposition of the following action items:

A-19: Taisia did write to GRPC on the issue of fiscal agency, but has not heard back. She will follow up.

A-51: Need to follow up with Washington Area Community Coalition.

A-58: Deleted; Facebook and the web page will take the place of a planned quarterly newsletter.

A-65: Resolved

A-67: Corinne attempted to communicate with Rep. Lofgren’s office via email with no response. She will follow up.

A-72: Completed

A-83: Attempted, with no response; then dropped.

A-85: Completed; brochures printed.

A-86: Completed: we are signed up for Day on the Bay.

A-87: Completed; we should hear on October 17<sup>th</sup> regarding a WGNA forum for candidates for the SCVWD board.

## **NEW ISSUES**

### 1. Liaison with Stevens Creek Trail Planning Group

Martin said that he read in the paper about a group called the “*Stevens Creek Trail Sunnyvale Planning Group*” that was being formed to explore the best routing of the Stevens Creek Trail through the city of Sunnyvale. Martin said he was interested in attending their meetings, but this group will meet on the second Monday of every month, as does SOT. In order to be informed of their activities, and to make them aware of our group and to volunteer our help where appropriate, Martin suggested that we appoint a liaison to attend their meetings. Martin said his friend and member Thomas Schaefer, a Cupertino resident and trail user, was willing to serve. Martin moved that the Board appoint Thomas Schaefer as liaison to the Stevens Creek Trail Sunnyvale Planning Group. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### 2. Lars Thurfjell on Leave

Lars said that he remained very busy, and felt unable to assure the committee of his ability to attend further Board meetings. He requested to be placed on Leave of Absence until such time as his schedule would permit his being able to contribute to the Board’s activities. The request for granting a Leave was accepted unanimously.

### 3. Fiscal Agent

Roland had suggested that we consider choosing the San Jose Parks Foundation as our fiscal agent for the receipt of donations and grants. However, we had earlier agreed to use the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy in that role. The Board voted to remain with that decision. Taisia said she would follow up and formalize the agreement with the Conservancy for them to support us in that way.

### 4. Day on the Bay

Corinne said that she had a conflict and will not be able to be in charge of our table, as planned, on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and asked for volunteers to substitute for her. Bill said he would check his calendar to confirm his availability.

The suggestion was made that we have a raffle to gather the contact information for potential supporters, and to award a T-shirt as the prize.

### 5. Pumpkins in the Park

The date of this event is October 13<sup>th</sup>, but because it is just the day before Day on the Bay, and because of the cost of participating, the Board decided to decline to take part.

6. Parkside Development and the Stevens Creek Trail

Martin volunteered to respond to the letter received that morning from Ross Heitkamp, President of Friends of the Stevens Creek Trail, regarding the Parkside Development at the border of the Stevens Canyon Park and the possibility of reserving land for the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail.

**NEW ACTION ITEMS**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Due</b>
88	9/11/12	Taisia	Get in touch with Matt Cano to ask him if he will talk to the Board about the disposition of PDO funds.	9/30/12
89	9/11/12	Bill	Coordinate with City on Trail Cleanup for October 20 <sup>th</sup> .	9/30/12
90	9/11/12	Corinne	Create flier for the trail clean-up (to be distributed at Day on the Bay)	9/30/12
91	9/11/12	Corinne	Get organized for Day on the Bay.	9/30/12
92	9/11/12	Bill	Confirm availability to staff the table at Day on the Bay on October	9/30/12

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Monday evening, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.