

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting
Tuesday, February 5, 2013
Willow Glen Baptist Church

ADMINISTRATION

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Jake Jacobson, Taisia McMahon, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, Bruce Tichinin (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Corinne Asturias (excused), Martin Delson (excused), Scott Lane, Roland LeBrun (excused), Lars Thurfjell (on leave)

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames
Richard Zapelli, Willow Glen Neighborhood Association

Visitors in Attendance

Ella Samonsky, Environmental Services Dep't, City of San Jose
Dorsey Moore, Open Space Authority
Yves Zsutty, Dep't of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services, City of San Jose

Minutes Approved

The draft minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2013 were accepted as submitted.

Excused Absences

Corinne Asturias, Martin Delson, Roland LeBrun

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Attorney's report

Bruce reported on various circumstances related to Union Pacific's offer to sell property on the Eastern alignment of the Three Creeks Trail.

DEFERRED ISSUES

None

STATUS OF ACTION ITEMS

Not addressed at this meeting.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Larry Ames presented the following report of the nominating committee:

The Save Our Trails (SOT) Nominating Committee, comprised of Larry Ames, Helen Chapman, Leslee Hamilton and Nancy Ianni, has met in-person and via email. (We unfortunately used out-of-date info for the fifth SOT Nominating Committee-member, Garnetta Annable, and so did not contact her in time.) We have solicited nominations and candidates, we have checked availabilities, and we have come to a unanimous consensus on a slate of recommendations:

The following Board Members are not up for renewal at this time, and so no action is needed:

Corinne Asturias

- Martin Delson
- Jake Jacobson
- Scott Lane
- Roland Lebrun
- Taisia McMahon
- Mary Ellen Petrich
- Bill Rankin

The following Board Members are up for renewal, are recommended by the Nominating Committee, and have agreed to be candidates for the 2013-14 SOT Board:

- Joan Bohnett
- Jack Nadeau
- Richard Silva

The Nominating Committee was unclear as to the status of Bruce Tichinin, who was not listed on the Save Our Trails website, but who we understand has now returned to the Board. If he left the Board and then was reappointed, his two-year term will have started at the date of appointment and so he would not be up for renewal now; if he was away on leave-of-absence, then his two-year term would be expiring and he would be up for renewal now.

The Board informed Larry that the former was the case: Bruce left the Board and then was reappointed. Consequently his two-year term will have started at the date of appointment and so his position is not be up for renewal this year.

Larry said the Nominating Committee was also proud to recommend three new individuals to be on the Board:

- Joe Carpenter
- Diane Solomon
- Bertha Ward

Joe is an active bicyclist and member of the District 6 Neighborhood Leaders Group (D6NLG).

Diane Solomon is a Willow Glen resident who is a strong bicycle activist and one of the organizers of the San José Bike Party.

Bertha Ward is a member of the San José Neighborhoods Commission, representing Dist. 7, and a strong supporter of the Three Creeks Trail who would like to represent D7 in meetings with Councilmember Madison Nguyen.

For Officer Positions:

- For the position of Vice President, the committee recommends Bill Rankin, who has agreed to serve if elected.
- For the position of Treasurer, the committee recommends Mary Ellen Petrich, who also has agreed to serve if elected.
- The positions of President (Taisia McMahon) and Secretary (Martin Delson) are not up for election this cycle.

Regarding the Nominating Committee for the 2013-14 season:

To provide the continuity mandated by the SOT Bylaws, four of the current Nominating Committee members (Larry Ames, Helen Chapman, Leslee Hamilton, and Nancy Ianni) have agreed to stand for the next Nominating Committee. To serve as the fifth Nominating Committee member, the committee nominates

- David Ginsborg

David works for the County Assessor's office, and was recently a candidate for the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

No additional nominations were received from the floor.

The Nominating Committee will next prepare ballots for the election at the March General Meeting.

NEW ISSUES

Status of Trestle on the Three Creeks Trail

Yves Zsutty accepted an invitation to speak to the Board about the issue of the trestle over the Los Gatos Creek. Studies showed that some of the timbers on the trestle are rotting from the inside. The consultant's study indicated that the costs of a new steel bridge (~\$1.7 million) is about the same as

repairing the trestle (~\$1.6 million), but there would be a need for on-going maintenance of a repaired trestle, whereas a new bridge would have a lifetime of some 75 years. As a consequence, City staff supports building a new bridge. The issue will come before City Council on March 12th.

A motion was made to support the staff recommendation that the trestle be replaced. The motion carried by a vote of 7-2, with Mary Ellen and Joan opposed.

Yves informed the Board of a series of public meetings that will be held to gather input, feedback, and ideas about the design and creation of the Three Creeks Trail on the following dates and times:

March 19, 2013 - Tuesday 6pm - 9pm

May 29, 2013 - Wednesday 6pm - 9pm

July 24, 2013 - Wednesday 6pm - 9pm

The meetings will occur at the Willow Glen Community Center, located at 2175 Lincoln Avenue in San Jose.

Five Wounds Trail Clean-Up

Ella Samonsky of the City's Environmental Services Department informed the Board that the Friends of Five Wounds Trail is planning to host a volunteer cleanup day on April 27th for the Five Wounds Trail from Williams to Santa Clara Street. She expressed the thought that this would offer a good opportunity for Save Our Trails to put together a cleanup day as well, in conjunction with Clean Creeks, Healthy Communities.

The Board supports Friends of the Five Wounds Trail, but felt that time was too short to officially organize a support effort; however we encourage Members and the public to support Friends of the Five Wounds Trail in their clean-up on that day. We look forward to better coordination in the future.

Invitation to participate in OSA events

Dorsey Moore of the Open Space Authority informed the Board of the three following upcoming events to which SOT members are cordially invited:

1. Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve Public Workshop to help plan the 348-acre Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve. The preserve is located in the center of the valley between San Jose and Morgan Hill. With spectacular views, the preserve retains a rural character with large acreages of private agricultural and range lands surrounding it.

March 4, 2013, 6:00pm - 8:30pm

Ann Sobrato HS - Library

401 Burnett Ave

Morgan Hill, CA

(RSVP to the OSA)

2. OSA 20th Anniversary Celebration
 Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013
 Time: TBD
 Location: Probably Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve
 More details to come soon.

3. OSA Founder's Day Celebration
 Open to the public
 Date: Saturday, September 14, 2013
 Time: TBD
 Location: Probably Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve
 More details to come soon.

NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
116	2/5/13	Mary Ellen	Complete application to have San Jose Parks Foundation serve as our fiscal agent for tax-deductible donations	3/31/13

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on Tuesday evening, March 5th, at 7:00 pm.