

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting
Monday, October 21, 2013
Dwell Christian Church

ADMINISTRATION

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Joe Carpenter, Martin Delson, Jake Jacobson, Roland LeBrun, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, Bruce Tichinin, and Bertha Ward (making a quorum).

Directors Absent

Corinne Asturias (excused), Taisia McMahon (excused), Mary Ellen Petrich (excused), Lars Thurfjell (on leave).

Members in Attendance

None

Visitors in Attendance

Mika Longsberry, Kate Reeves, and Sean Tighe; all interns with the San Jose District 6 office

Invited Speakers

None

Changes to the Agenda

None

Minutes Amended

The draft minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2013 were amended and accepted as amended.

Minutes Accepted

The draft minutes of the meeting of August 19, 2013 were accepted as submitted.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Vice-President's Report

1. Bill said that at “Day on the Bay” he met Lora Thomson of the Bay Area Ridge Trail organization. They had a discussion about possible collaboration. Bill said he would get in touch with her to see how we might proceed (e.g. should we invite them to one of our meetings; should a small group of our Board attend one of their meetings, etc.)
2. Bill said he also wants to approach the Rails to Trails organization to see if there is any possibility of receiving support for the Three Creeks Trail from their group.
3. Bill mentioned that he heard that railroad rights of way could be of value to communication companies as a route where they could lay communications cables, and wondered whether that might be a source of funding for the Three Creeks Trail. Roland thought at first that the right-of-way was too short to be of interest for this application, but then wondered whether the possibility of a connection to the communications trench currently being installed along the Caltrain ROW might indeed make it valuable. He said we would investigate the possibility of a connection.

CURRENT ISSUES

Status of Action Items

- 159 Completed: Day on the Bay successfully conducted.
- 160 Completed: Trail count successfully conducted.
- 161 Completed: Trail count successfully conducted.
- 162 Closed: No letter will be distributed to property owners respecting graffiti removal.
- 163 Completed: Poster for Bark Day prepared by Corinne.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

DEFERRED ISSUES

Google Groups

Joe said that he said up a Google Group for SAVE OUR TRAILS internal communications, and informed everyone about it, but did not see any postings. Martin asked him to resend the information. The Board agreed to try Google Groups, and see if it made for more effective communications.

Consent Calendar

Joe suggested that our meetings could be more efficient if we adopted a consent calendar, the principles of which he explained (and were outlined in the Agenda to the meeting.) The sentiment was that it was worth trying but Martin expressed a concern that we might pass a resolution that required that the president do some additional work in advance of each meeting, and Taisia was not currently present to let us know whether she agreed to take on this assignment. Bruce said that in an earlier discussion, Taisia agreed that working with a consent calendar was worthwhile. The motion was made that we adopt a consent calendar for future meetings. It passed by a vote of 8-0 with two abstentions.

NEW ISSUES

Letters of Support

Martin moved that the Board agree for him to sign and deliver to Yves Zsutty the letters of support for two grant applications which he had previously distributed by email. The motion carried by a vote of 9-0 with one abstention. Roland asked to see the original letters which Yves had drafted and Martin had revised, and Martin said he would transmit those to the full Board.

Provision of Doggie Bags at the Trail Head

We discussed whether SOT should provide doggie bags at one or more trail entrances to the Three Creeks Trail. Roland said, to do so we needed (a) a post to attach the dispenser to, (b) the bag dispenser with lock and key, (c) a trash can, chained to the pole, and (d) an agreement with the city to empty the trash can. Joe said it was a lot easier; no keys were necessary; we just had to provide the dispenser and the first set of bags, and we could depend on neighbors to refill the dispenser from time to time, which would be a good thing to get neighborhood involvement.

Joan suggested that we do a trial run. She moved that we buy one box of doggie bags (cost \$4) and install it, and see what happens. Roland said that he would provide the dispenser, and Bill said he would provide the box of bags and install the dispenser. The motion passed by a vote of 7-2 with 1 abstention.

Fold-N-Go Table

The issue of whether SOT should buy a "Fold-N-Go" table or something similar, for events like "Day on the Bay" was deferred because of Lars's absence. The Board tasked Lars with preparing a presentation on the table at our next meeting.

Bark Day Preparation

Roland distributed a sheet with a schedule of events and tasks that need to be performed on "Bark Day" (October 26th) to place the cardboard and spread the chips on the Trail ROW between Coe Avenue and the trestle. He asked for a volunteer to get coffee and breakfast items for trail workers, and Bruce agreed to do so. Bill said that he will bring the cash box for sign-ups and T-shirt sales. Roland said that he and Bertha would take care of distributing lunch tickets and getting sandwiches for those volunteers who wished to stay around for lunch.

Roland emphasized the great help that Costco has provided to support this effort and wanted SAVE OUR TRAILS to write a letter of thanks. Martin said he would ask Roland for details and would write and send the letter. The Board supported the idea and gave Martin permission to send the letter without having to ask Board approval for the exact wording.

Letter of Thanks to Tom Schaefer

While on the subject of writing letters of thanks, the Board wished to recognize the outstanding work done by Tom Schaefer, our liaison to the groups working on the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail, and asked Martin to write him a letter of recognition. Martin agreed.

CLOSED SESSION

Bruce asked for a closed session at 8:30 pm to discuss a matter involving a Board Member. The three guests were asked to leave. During the closed session, the Board agreed, by a vote of 6-0, with three abstentions (Jake being absent) to not place on the Agenda for the November meeting the modification of the By-Laws suggested by Bruce.

ADJOURNMENT

The closed session concluded at 9:50 pm and the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, November 18th at the Dwell Christian Church, at 7:00 pm, at the Dwell Christian Church, 1292 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

SUMMARY OF NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
164	10/21/13	Bill	Speak with Lora Thomson of the Bay Area Ridge Trail organization about possibilities for collaboration.	11/7/13
165	10/21/13	Roland	Look into whether the communications trench along the Caltrain right of way could be connected to an extension to the Three Creeks Trail ROW.	11/21/13
166	10/21/13	Joe	Send out another invitation to join the Google Group he set up for internal SOT communications.	10/24/13
167	10/21/13	Martin	Send the Board the two template letters of support for grant applications that Yves Zsutty had drafted.	10/24/13
168	10/21/13	Roland	Get a doggie bag dispenser and give to Bill.	11/4/13
169	10/21/13	Bill	Install the doggie bag dispenser at the trail entrance on Willow, and fill with one box of bags.	11/18/13
170	10/21/13	Lars	Make a presentation to the Board on the "Fold-N-Go" table.	11/18/13
171	10/21/13	Bruce	Provide coffee and breakfast snacks for Bark Day.	10/26/13
172	10/21/13	Bill	Bring cash box to trail head for Bark Day.	10/26/13
173	10/21/13	Martin, Roland	Write letter of thanks to Costco for their extensive support on Bark Day. (Roland to provide details; Martin to write and send the letter.)	10/31/13
174	10/21/13	Martin	Write letter of thanks to Tom Schaefer for his outstanding work as liaison to the committees planning the extension of the Stevens Creek Trail.	10/25/13