

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Save Our Trails Meeting
Monday, February 17, 2014
Dwell Christian Church

ADMINISTRATION

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

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Joan Bohnett, Corinne Asturias, Martin Delson, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, and Richard Silva (making a quorum), as well as Lars Thurfjell (currently on leave).

Directors Absent

Joe Carpenter, Bertha Ward

Members in Attendance

Larry Ames, chair of the Nominating Committee
Tom Schaefer, liaison to the Stevens Creek Trail working group

Visitors in Attendance

None

Invited Speakers

None

Minutes

A typo in the draft minutes of January 10, 2014 was corrected, and the minutes were accepted as amended. The minutes of October 21, 2013 and of January 27, 2014 were accepted as submitted.

End of Leave

Lars Thurfjell informed the organization that he was able to terminate his leave. The group unanimously voted to accept him back as a voting member of the Board.

REPORTS

Liaison's Report

Tom gave a brief summary of the various alternatives to bridging the gap between the two existing sections of the Stevens Creek Trail: the one heading north from Mountain View to the Bay, and the short section by Blackberry Farm in Cupertino. He said that there has not been any public activity in this issue for the past four months while a consultant prepares a report on the issue and makes their recommendations.

Nominating Committee

Larry Ames, head of the Nominating Committee, said that the committee had not yet met this year. He wanted first to confirm that SAVE OUR TRAILS was planning to continue, given the recent resignations of the President and other Board Members. He was assured that we very much plan to continue with the same mission.

There was a discussion of steps that might be taken to expand the activities of the organization to ensure that we indeed are concerned with trails across the whole county, and not just with the Three Creeks Trail. Larry mentioned that he was considering forming a group to work on issues related to the Los Gatos Creek Trail.

In response to a question, Larry reminded the organization of the role of the Nominating Committee, and the procedure which it uses to perpetuate itself.

President's Report

1. Bill confirmed that the corporate status of SAVE OUR TRAILS remains "active" with the California Secretary of State. Martin added, he received a post card directing him to a web site to renew the status (this has to be done every two years), which he did, paying a fee of \$20 for the registration.
2. On April 21st, there will be a Mayoral Forum for candidates for Mayor of San Jose on the subject of Parks. Bill polled the Board, and the general feeling was that it was very important for the Board Members to attend. Since the 21st is the normal date of our April meeting, it was agreed by a vote of 6-0 (with two abstentions) to have a brief meeting in April before the Mayoral Forum at the Cafe Stritch, 374 S 1st St, San Jose, CA 95113. Bill said he will inform the Board of the meeting time once he learns when the Forum will take place.
3. Bill reported that the city may convene a meeting with the management of the San Jose Sharks about the impact of the San Jose Ice building on the Three Creeks Trail. Participants would include city staff and a small number of representatives of interested citizens' groups, including SOT and possibly Friends of the Three Creeks Trail. The time and date has not yet been established.

NEW ISSUES

Three events

Richard Silva informed the Board of three significant dates in the near future:

- March 13 – Spring Meeting of Friends of Five Wounds at the Roosevelt Community Center
- April 23 – San Jose Council District 3 Candidates Forum
- May 3 – Spring Clean-up of the Five Wounds Trail

Bridge over the Los Gatos Creek

Larry Ames reviewed for the Board the reasons that Union Pacific Railroad is planning to add a third track south of Diridon Station, and to build an additional bridge across the Los Gatos Creek to accommodate it. The additional track and bridge are planned to be built to the west (upstream) from the existing railroad bridge. This placement will have negative impact on the riparian corridor and the steepness of the ramp of the Los Gatos Creek Trail, which will pass under the bridge at that point.

Martin reminded the Board that he, together with Bruce Tichinin drafted a letter to the Joint Powers Board advocating that the new bridge be constructed to the east of the existing bridge. Quoting the letter, *“Doing so will allow more space and clearance for the future Los Gatos Creek Trail through this area, a shorter ramp, better clearance under the bridge, and a better line-of-sight for making the turn under the bridge; in short, a much more satisfactory experience for trail users.”* Bruce mailed the letter on December 23, 2013.

Planning for the Annual Meeting

It was felt that we should have another Board Meeting the week before the Annual Meeting to help make sure that plans for the Annual Meeting are complete. This special meeting will be held on Monday, March 17th, at 7:00 pm, at the Dwell Christian Church, 1292 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

The Annual Meeting will be held the following week, on Monday, March 24th, at 7:00 pm, at the Dwell Christian Church, 1292 Minnesota Ave., San Jose, CA 95125.

It was agree that the meeting would present us with a good opportunity to poll members about what projects they think the organization should undertake in the future.

Long Range Plans

Mary Ellen volunteered to form a committee to consider priorities in the future for the organization.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

SUMMARY OF NEW ACTION ITEMS

No.	Date	Who	Action	Due
206.09	2/17/14	Corinne	Post fliers for Annual Meeting on web site and a few local stores	3/17/14
206.10	2/17/14	Mary	Email Martin a copy of accomplishments from application to SJPF	2/28/14
207	2/17/14	Martin	Send full Membership a note about the April meeting at the Cafe Stitch	3/31/14
208	2/17/14	Bill	Speak with Mollie about moving chips to where they will be spread, or, per Jack's suggestion, see if they can spread chips by machine.	2/28/14
209	2/17/14	Mary Ellen	Convene committee meeting with Corinne, Jack, and Joan to work on suggestions for SOT long-range plans.	2/28/14