

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Board Meeting

Monday, July 16, 2018

Willow Glen Public Library

1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

Administration

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Attendance

Directors in Attendance: Laura Levin, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, Bruce Victorine, Tom Schaefer. (Six Board Members are required for a quorum, so a quorum was not constituted.)

Directors Absent: Joan Bohnett, Domingo Candelas, Mike Flaughner, Heather Lerner, Richard Silva, Bertha Ward

Visitors: Larry Ames (member), Martin Delson (member), Phil Fernandez (representing the office of San Jose City Council member Dev Davis).

Minutes

Not discussed in the absence of a quorum.

Announcements

- (a) Phil Fernandez said that the staff of Parks and Rec was not happy with the quality of the stands for the dog dispensers that were in storage, so a new set will be purchased using discretionary D6 funds.
- (b) Phil also said that there was still no date for the official opening of the Three Creeks Trail. Council Member Davis and the District 6 staff would like to have a celebration on opening day, and are frustrated in not yet knowing when that will be. There are hints it may be sometime in August, but there is still no official word.
- (c) Phil said further that one resident who lives close to the Three Creeks Trail suggested that sponsored signs be allowed along the trail to point to specific businesses in the neighborhood. The city recommended that he speak with the Willow Glen Business Association to make a formal proposal. The suggestion would have to be vetted within the city to ascertain whether promotional signs would be permissible, and to determine what restrictions needed to be placed on them.

Officers' Reports

President's Report

- (a) Bill said he talked with Deb Kramer of Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful to see if Deb could recommend anyone to serve as Secretary for Save Our Trails. She suggesting posting a request at volunteermatch.org, which Bill said he would do.
- (b) Bill discussed the idea of promoting a trail loop around the city that would incorporate the Three Creeks Trail, Los Gatos Creek Trail, Guadalupe River Trail, Highway 237 Bikeway, Coyote Creek Trail, and Five Wounds Trail.

Vice-President's Report

Bruce thanked Tom Schaefer for the presentation he made at the previous meeting regarding the history and future of the Stevens Creek Trail.

In response to a question about trail developments in Cupertino, Tom said that Cupertino City was proposing a trail along the Regnart Creek, a creek that is currently in a concrete channel, but that has a service road along its length. The trail would start at Torre and Pacifica Dr., go behind the library, and then follow the creek south of Wilson Park to Creekside Park at E. Estates Drive. But many neighbors have organized to oppose the realization of a trail there, and Tom does not know if the City Council has the political will to support the building of the trail against organized opposition. The issue may come before City Council in August. Martin suggested that members of Save Our Trails be encouraged to attend the council meeting to advocate in favor of the trail.

Treasurer's Report

None

Secretary's Report

None.

Discussions

1. Updates on the SAAG meetings

Larry, Bill, and Martin reported on progress at the Station Area Advisory Group (SAAG) meetings concerning the proposed Google development adjacent to Diridon Station and its impact on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. They said that Google is working with an architect who has developed very attractive and ecologically advanced projects at a number of international locations. The architects made a presentation with a very attractive vision for the eventual appearance of the area and the surrounding neighborhoods. This is available on line by following these steps: (1) Open diridonsj.org, (2) Click on the red text "SAAG" on the first line; (3) Click on "May 23" (SAAG Meeting #4) on the lower right; (4) Click on "SAAG Meeting #4 Powerpoint Presentation" on the right-hand side; (5) View pages 10-38 of the pdf for the Google presentation.

Larry, Bill, and Martin reported a very high level of support among most members of SAAG for daylighting the Creek, having pedestrian-accessible amenities along the Creek, connecting the Los Gatos Creek Trail to the Guadalupe River Trail, and providing bicycle and pedestrian-friendly connections to downtown and to the adjacent neighborhoods. However the issue of how the public aspects of the construction will be financed was not yet clarified.

2. Discuss fulfilling the commitment to keep the Three Creeks Trail clean

Bill said that the work would consist primarily of the following:

- Picking up trash
- Dealing with invasive weeds
- Reporting graffiti to the city

Martin suggested that a judicious application of Round-up, although not sanctioned by the city, would probably be the most effective way of dealing with weeds, especially the invasive tree of heaven (ailanthus).

Phil said he would look at whether SOT was already registered with the city's "Adopt a Trail" program.

Martin suggested that SOT should divide the trail into segments, and seek a volunteer for cleaning each segment. Bill and Martin each volunteered to do one section. Martin said that a back-up was needed to handle trail sections when the main individual was away or unable to fulfill their responsibilities. He suggested that clean-up be done on either a monthly or semimonthly schedule.

The following trail breakdown was suggested:

Trail segment	Volunteer	Back-up
Coe Ave. – Broadway	Martin	---
Broadway – Willow St.	---	---
Lincoln Ave. – Delmas/Milton	Bill	---
Delmas/Milton – Minnesota Ave.	---	---
Minnesota Ave. – Guadalupe River	---	---

It was pointed out that one long-time SOT member lives very close to the fifth segment. Bill said he would get in contact with her to see if she would volunteer to handle that section of the trail, or if she could suggest someone who would.

Bill said he would send a post to all members asking for volunteers for primary and back-up positions for trail maintenance.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 17, 2018 at 7pm at the Willow Glen Library community room.