

# Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Board Meeting

Monday, September 17, 2018

Willow Glen Public Library

1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

## Administration

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

## Attendance

Directors in Attendance: Joan Bohnett, Laura Levin, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, Bruce Victorine, Tom Schaefer, totaling seven and constituting a quorum.

Directors Absent: Domingo Candelas, Mike Flaughner, Heather Lerner, Bertha Ward

Visitors: Katt Clark, Harvey Darnell, Martin Delson (member), John Ingco, Janice Rombeck (representing the office of Supervisor Cortese), Ani Sathage, Alie Victorine (member).

## Introductions

Bill welcomed the visitors to the meeting, and all present gave a brief introduction.

## Minutes

The Board approved by unanimous vote the Minutes of the meetings of January 15, March 19, May 21, and July 16, all of 2018.

## Officers' Reports

### President's Report

1. On Saturday, Sept. 15th, over 100 volunteers gathered for a clean-up of Coyote Meadows, and succeeding in collecting over 300 bags of garbage. These meadows are significant as the location of both the Coyote Creek Trail and the Five Wounds Trail, and the site of their junction. A walkthrough is planned for September 29th. Those interested in participating should meet at the Walmart parking lot at 10:00 am.
2. Bill reported on the meeting of Friends of the Five Wounds Trail. According to an email from Terry Christensen of that organization, the following occurred:
  - a. Senator Jim Beall reported on a city grant application to fund master planning and environmental studies for the trail and prospective state funds up to \$28 million.
  - b. Senator Beall will lead a Walk and Talk with other elected officials on the trail on October 27.
  - c. The McKinley Gap (a short section that had been owned by the school district) should be closed by the end of the year.
  - d. Purchase of the William-to-Whitton portion of the trail has been agreed upon and should be official by the end of the year.
  - e. The Coyote Creek Trail between Story Road and I-280 will be developed next summer. This section of the trail will go through Coyote Meadows.

3. At a meeting of the Campbell City Council, the council did not approve the motion to study the implementation of the San Tomas Aquino Trail. There was substantial opposition from neighbors bordering on the proposed trail. However the issue may not be dead; it may be brought back for further consideration after staff addresses neighbors' concerns.

#### Vice-President's Report

Save Our Trails participated in the San Jose Trail Count on September 12th by manning a count station on the Three Creeks Trail at Willow Street. Bill's hard work was recognized in having set up the station in the early morning, manning it for four hours, and disassembling it at the end of the day.

#### Treasurer's Report

No significant financial activity.

#### Discussions

##### 1. Regnart Creek Trail

Tom Schaefer reported that, in contrast to the situation in Campbell, on the same evening the Cupertino City Council approved proceeding with a study of the Regnart Creek Trail. Tom, who attended the meeting and spoke in favor, at first was rather pessimistic, because of the large turnout of neighbors who opposed the trail. The council meeting was filled to overflowing. But the proponents of the trail were very well organized, and had dozens of school children attend the meeting to testify that they would use the trail to get to school, and that the trail would be significantly safer for bicyclists than biking on the street. The motion to do the engineering report and EIR and then proceed to construction passed by a vote of 4 to 0 (with one abstention.)

#### New Issues

##### 1. Invitation to Johnny Khamis

Bruce suggested that SOT invite Johnny Khamis, Council Member for San Jose District 10 to the next meeting, because of his interest in trails.

##### 2. City Loop Trail

Bill introduced the idea of a "City Loop Trail", a linked ring of trails that would circle a major part of the city. Starting in the north at Alviso, and going clockwise, the City Loop Trail would go east on the Highway 237 Bikeway, south on the Coyote Creek Trail, continue south on the Five Wounds Trail, swing west and northwest on the Three Creeks Trail, head north east on the Los Gatos Creek Trail, and back north to Alviso on the Guadalupe River Trail.

Bill felt that the idea of such a Loop Trail would help galvanize support and enable building a coalition that would bring together a large number of groups to work towards this encompassing goal. Among the groups he thought might be interested in joining a coalition, in addition to Save Our Trails were the following:

- San Francisco Bay Trail
- Bay Trail Ridge Trail Council
- Friends of the Five Wounds Trail
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Committee for Green Foothills
- Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Guadalupe River Park Conservancy
- Greenbelt Alliance
- Google

Bill said he will work to initiate a coalition, and would report back.

Rich suggested approaching e-scooter companies (e.g. Lime and Bird) for support.

3. Three Creeks Trail Maintenance

- a. Janice Rombeck volunteered to participate in any maintenance effort.
- b. Bill reported that dog poop bag dispensers will be procured by Dev Davis's office.
- c. Bill said he spoke with members of WGNA and the WG Business Association about providing signs to be posted on the trail pointing to the business district, and reciprocally, signs in businesses pointing to the trail.
- d. Martin raised the issue of caring for the irises in the iris garden. After they finish blooming, the flower stalks should be cut off, dead leaves amputated, and green leaves cut back; Youtube videos show how. Martin said he happily care for some on his own, but there are 300 or more in the garden. It was suggested that a group, Friends of the Iris Garden be created to solicit volunteers for the job. Bill said he would contact Mollie Tobias and Yves Zsutty about the issue. Joan said she would contact the Master Gardeners to ask for volunteers.

**4. Approval of an expenditure**

It was moved that Save Our Trails approve reimbursing several people for expenses relating to sponsoring the opening of the Three Creeks Trail, and for expenses at the Annual Meeting (e.g., gifts, vegetable plate, drinks, etc.), the total of such reimbursement not to exceed five hundred dollars. The motion was seconded and was approved by a vote of 7-0 with no abstentions.

**Announcements**

1. There will be a clean-up of the Five Wounds Trail, organized by Friends of the Five Wounds Trail, on October 13th.
2. There will be a tour of the trail around the salt ponds at the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, organized by Deb Kramer, taking place on October 20th.
3. Day on the Bay will be October 7th this year.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 7pm at the Willow Glen Library community room.