

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Board Meeting

Monday, July 15, 2019

Willow Glen Public Library

1157 Minnesota Ave San Jose, CA 95125

Administration

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

Attendance

Directors in Attendance: Bill Rankin, Bruce Victorine, Mike Flaughter, Laura Levin, Katt Clark, Jack Nadeau

Directors Absent: Domingo Candelas, Bertha Ward, Heather Lerner, Joan Bohnett

Visitors: Larry Ames (member), Alie Victorine (member), Martin Delson (member), Larry Ames (member), Richard Silva (member), Tom Selbach (Erikson Neighborhood Association), Tre Grey of Councilmember Dev Davis' office

Introductions

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

Minutes

Minutes from last meeting passed out for review

Announcements

No announcements or change to agenda

Officers' Reports

President's Report

1. Deb Kramer of KCCB needs help at the Brew and Zoo on the 19th.
2. Bill and Mike attended the District 10 Almaden Valley Community Association. Very well received (according to Michelle Dexter VP of assoc.)
 - a. Mike spoke about Ridge Trail and their proximity to it via the Calero and Los Alamitos trails off of Mockingbird Lane
 - b. Bill spoke of the Three Creeks Trail and the City Loop Trail
3. Mike spoke about his proposal for a South Bay Trail Summit, bringing together all South Bay stakeholders. Bill suggested that SOT help host this
4. Tom Selbach from Erikson Neighborhood Association (tom@yahoo.com) spoke about his neighborhood efforts to build/complete/improve the Hayes Chynoweth trail to Branham. Also to create a trail from Branham to Capitol along the Guadalupe - dirt road there now. Also to complete a bridge between Chynoweth and the Almaden Shopping Center - which was supposed to happen and already has architectural design. He is hoping to get expertise and support from SOT.

5. Mike reported on proposed Ridge Trail crossings for HWY 17. Project is in the proposal stage, 5 possibilities some with wildlife corridors also. There is a survey that Bill will send out as the agency is hoping to narrow down to the 3 best scenarios. Cost will be \$10 to 20 million dollars.
6. Bill sent a letter to the city regarding the development at Shark's Ice. (Maya's office, mayor, and city manager) He has not received any word back from anyone. Larry mentioned that Jean Dresden may have some information about and agreed upon easement.

Vice-President's Report

Nothing to report

Treasurer's Report

Laura Levin requested membership dues to be paid prior to March Annual Meeting

SOT has lost their tax exempt status, but Laura and Martin have been working to restore this.

1. All missing tax returns from 2010 to 2015 have been submitted with the proper forms.
2. The application needs to be resubmitted, and the original is being looked for.

Mike pointed out that until this is cleared up that SOT should not form any contract including receiving of grants.

Trestle Update: Larry

Trestle still standing but in flux.

Two aspects:

3. Declared historic by the state (4 times) city has sued and appealed but did not appeal the last declaration
4. The permit was granted in 2014 before given historic status, but permit expired 2018. City says that Fish and Wildlife granted the whole project in 2014 so should be able to get new permit.
 - a. Larry's group has appealed the decision. Appellate court rec'd paperwork today.
 - b. City has prepped the are in anticipation of court's decision.
 - i. Court can decide it doesn't want to hear the case - city can tear down bridge tomorrow
 - ii. Court can decide it will review the case - could take a year

Larry is also applying for a historic heritage grant through the county. \$5 million dollars to be split between 5 county districts. Money could be used for:

1. Event: money to host an expo to bring in people from all over to showcase how railroads influenced the way cities were built.
2. Non-capital: money to hire an engineering firm to study how best to renovate th trestle
3. Capital: money to help the actual renovation of the trestle.

Questions/comments

What are the expected maintenance costs? Approximately \$20,000 every 5 years (based on 2012 study)

Coyote Creek trestle in Coyote Meadows would have a harder time being designated historic.

Willow Glen Trestle Facebook page has 200 - 400 supporters. Larry's e-mail list is about 100 people.

Rod Diridon Sr. is supportive.

Current Issues:

1. Adoption of 3 Creeks Trail - Bill is filling out the paperwork so litter and weed clean-ups can be hosted.
2. Dev Davis's office has donated dispensers for doggie poop bags. Martin volunteered to take on the task of filling 2 of them for 1 year, but a second key needs to be made. Need a volunteer to maintain the other one and also fill in for Martin when he is OOT.
3. Outerspatial - an app that is used to promote trail usage. Needs \$500 start-up money.
 - a. Dev Davis may have the money - Bill will ask
 - b. If not SOT may come up with the money.
4. Membership dues - proposal to increase from \$15 to \$20 -
 - a. no quorum so couldn't vote.
 - b. All literature and membership applications will need to be updated.
 - i. Laura requested that a date be put on the membership application
5. Day on the Bay October 13th - Bill will be there - asking for other volunteers. Bruce is tentative.
6. Viva Calle is September 22nd - propose to have a table especially to promote City Loop Trail possibly in conjunction with Coyote Meadows. Route from Rose Garden through Japantown.
7. Joan has asked for a leave of absence due to health issues.
8. Does this need a vote?
 - a. Does this change the quorum?
9. Updates on the Regnart Trail in Cupertino: Martin for Tom who was absent
 - a. Cupertino City Council voted 2-2 with one recusing because lives so close. City Attorney said he didn't need to recuse himself. He is pro trail, but there hasn't been another vote.
10. Mike invited everyone to the Trail Advocacy Group on July 23rd 6:30 Kitty Monahan's at New Almaden Community Center on Bertram.
 - a. Discussion will be centered around how Ridge Trail will support and celebrate the opening of BART.
 - b. E-mail him if you plan to attend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, September 16, 2019 at 7pm at the Willow Glen Library community room.