

Save Our Trails!



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

Minutes

Board Meeting

Monday, January 20, 2020

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: Domingo Candelas, Mike Flaughner, Laura Levin, Jack Nadeau, Bill Rankin, Tom Schaefer, and Bruce Victorine, constituting a quorum.

Directors Absent: Joan Bohnett, Katt Clark, and Heather Lerner

Visitors: Larry Ames (chair of the Nominating Committee), Martin Delson, Dick Silva, and Allie Victorine

Minutes

Not discussed in the absence of the secretary.

Report from the Nominating Committee

Larry Ames stated that the terms of Laura, Bill, and Tom will expire in March. All indicated their willingness to continue to serve. Larry said he will convene a meeting of the Nominating Committee and prepare a slate of candidates for the election at the Annual Meeting.

Vice President's Report

Bruce reported on a bird walk and on a creek clean-up at Coyote Creek Meadows. He met with representatives of various environmental organizations (e.g. Guadalupe River Park Conservatory, South Bay Clean Creeks, History San Jose, and Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful)

Treasurer's Report

Laura reported she got a letter from the IRS confirming the re-instatement of the organization's tax-exempt status, but she is still waiting to hear from the Franchise Tax Board.

Domingo offered to use his contacts to speak with staff at the FTB and determine the status of their ruling on the issue.

Annual Meeting

The meeting will occur on March 16th at the Willow Glen Library. Bill asked for suggestions regarding speakers, and three names were suggested: Jason Su of the GRPC; Sergio Jimenez, Council Member for San Jose District 2; and Yves Zsutty, previous Trails Manager of San Jose.

Jack offered to provide cake and cookies for refreshments, and Laura offered to bring a veggie dish with dip. Martin pointed out that previously Joan had bought small gifts as tokens of appreciation for speakers, but in her absence, someone else should step up to do that.

Tabling at SHPNA

It was reported that the annual meeting of the Shasta-Hanchett Park Neighborhood Association will be on February 1st. Bill and Larry agreed to share a table at that meeting; Larry representing the Friends of the Willow Glen Trestle; and Bill, Save Our Trails.

Gap closing on the Los Gatos Creek Trail

Bill suggested that Save Our Trails adopt the project of getting the City of San Jose to designate a better route than the current one (Meridian – Willow – Lincoln) to close the gap between the trail segments ending at Meridian and the one starting at Lonus.

Larry felt that Save Our Trails should lobby the City to hire a consultant to take charge of the project, suggest various alternatives, hold public meetings for input, and submit a report with a recommended route, whereupon the City should start implementing the recommendation.

Los Gatos Creek Trail route at Park Ave.

Bill pointed out that the one the plan for high speed rail being favored will entail raising the tracks by many feet to allow streets like Santa Clara, San Fernando, and Park Ave. to pass under the tracks at a level grade. In the case that Park Ave. is raised, he would like to advocate for bringing the Los Gatos Creek under the raised roadway to have direct access to the Google properties and to Diridon Station without having to cross Park Ave. at grade.

Larry added that the bridge at San Carlos Street will also have to be reconfigured when high speed rail comes.

OuterSpatial App

Bill brought up the issue that no progress has been made in getting data from San Jose trails into the app being built by OuterSpatial. A representative from the organization who made a presentation at an earlier meeting said that the data could be incorporated for a fee of \$5,000, and Council Member Davis, who was present at the meeting, indicated that she could fund that out of her office. Yet no progress has been made.

The representative for OuterSpatial also said that he could get started on the project with seed money of \$250. Bill asked whether Save Our Trails should allocate \$250 for this effort. A motion was made and seconded to that effect. Yet subsequent discussion raised some objections.

One objection was that the City might want to claim the credit for themselves for the effort, and not have to share the glory with Save Our Trails. Another objection was to spending that much money just on a spoken promise, without having any contractual commitment from OuterSpatial.

Because of these and other objections, the issue was tabled pending Bill getting further information both from the OuterSpatial representative and from the office of Council Member Davis with respect to these two points.

Ridge Trail News

Mike presented a comprehensive review of the efforts of the Bay Area Ridge Trail to close gaps in the trail network around the Bay.

Announcements

There will be a joint meeting with Friends of Coyote Meadows and San Jose Parks Advocates on Thursday, Jan 23 at 7:00 PM.

Election of the Board

Rich Silva expressed an interest in rejoining the Board, and spoke with Larry Ames, head of the Nominating Committee, about the procedure to get his name entered on the ballot.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, on March 16th at the community room of the Willow Glen Library.