



Minutes
Save Our Trails Meeting
Saturday, September 18, 2010
Willow Glen Baptist Church

Attendance

Directors in Attendance

Gina America, Joan Bohnett, Martin Delson, Rick Hernandez, Roland LeBrun, Taisia McMahon, Shirley Nakamiyo, Jack Nadeau, Mary Ellen Petrich, Bill Rankin, Richard Silva, and Bruce Tichinin (making a quorum).

No directors absent.

Members in Attendance

Nancy Ianni, Richard Zapelli

Visitors in Attendance

None

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of August 21, 2010 were unanimously approved.

Meeting Date

It was moved that the meeting date be changed to the first Monday every month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The motion passed without opposition.

Officers' Reports

President:

The Board of Supervisors voted to confirm the \$2M allocation for the western reach of the Three Creeks Trail, to not require matching funds from the City of San Jose, and to allocate a further \$1M for the eastern reach.

Treasurer:

At the time of the meeting we had a balance of \$362.47

We will pay \$105.00 for room rental for September, October, and November, after which the balance will be \$257.47.

501(c)(4)

Martin reported that he is waiting to submit the application for 501(c)(4) status in the hope and expectation that the IRS will devise a lower-cost on-line application process. The motion was made and approved that we file for 501(c)(4) status within one year of our establishment.

There was a discussion about whether we would be required to file a tax return for 2010 if we had not yet been granted 501(c)(4) status. The organization requested that Bruce investigate this and related issues.

Trestle

Joan reported that she will go the PACSJ on Monday to discuss the issues related to having the Los Gatos Creek trestle granted landmark status. She said that San Jose City Council decided that the City will not initiate any further requests for landmark status of any structures on city property. As citizens, we can apply for the landmark status only of structures that we own.

Authority to write letters or speak as a representative of SAVE OUR TRAILS

Martin reported that, at the request of Bruce and Taisia, he had written letters to two Supervisors requesting their support for the Three Creeks Trail at the upcoming meeting of the Board of Supervisors, and, after reporting this action to another member after the meeting, that member objected to the fact that the letter had not been put before the whole Board for consideration.

Martin, agreeing that the procedure was irregular, proposed the following motion:

No member of SAVE OUR TRAILS may write a letter or take a stand at a public meeting as a representative of SAVE OUR TRAILS unless the letter or position has been approved by a vote of the Board of Directors. In urgent situations, where the letter should be written or public statement made before the next meeting of the Board, a draft of the proposed letter or statement may be sent by email to all Board Members, and Board Members polled by email. If a quorum responds, and a majority responds affirmatively, then that will be considered as authorization for the letter to be sent or the position statement to be made at a meeting in the name of SAVE OUR TRAILS. However, if two or more Board Members object (even if a majority are in favor), the letter may not be sent and the position may not be taken without majority approval after discussion at a Board meeting.

Discussion raised the following points:

- Perhaps the Board should approve in advance a list of acceptable talking points, so it would not be necessary to always seek Board approval before speaking before a government body.

- One problem is that some members don't check their email every day. It was suggested that if the person seeking approval cannot get a quorum, he or she could call the persons who had not responded. This led to a request that Mary Ellen distribute a list of all Board Members' phone numbers to all Board Members, unless a Board Member should object. Mary Ellen was requested to send an email to all Board Members requesting their permission to distribute their phone numbers.
- Roland thought that the clause that allows two Board Members to block action was unnecessarily restrictive.

Martin called for a vote. The motion carried by a vote of 8-3-1.

Letters of support for City grant applications

It was moved that the secretary of SAVE OUR TRAILS be directed to write five letters, as requested by Yves Zsutty, Trails Director of the San Jose Department of Parks & Recreation, in support of grant applications by the City. The motion was amended to direct the secretary to ensure that the letters contain an accurate quote of the organization's Mission Statement.

The motion carried by a vote of 11-0-1.

Winds of Change

On behalf of The Willow Glen Neighborhood Association, Richard Zapelli informed the organization of the following event on October 20th: Don Weden, a long time senior planning official for Santa Clara County and Member of the board of the Bay Trail, will present the talk "*Winds of Change: Adapting Our Communities to the changing realities of the 21st Century*". He points out that there are powerful, structural changes occurring that will affect everyone and that public officials and community leaders should be aware of. Don's presentation will last one hour with an open forum for questions.

Mary Ellen agreed to place the event on the SAVE OUR TRAILS calendar.

Inventory of Trees

Bruce underlined the importance of identifying all trees of significance in the Three Creeks Trail right-of-way before the clean-up. An ad-hoc group comprising Jack, Joan, and Bill agreed to walk the right-of-way to see if any trees of significance had been omitted from the railroad's list, and to inform Bruce if they find any trees left out. Bruce will then convey the findings to Clean-up Project Manager Berna-Hicks.

Meeting with Matt Cano

Bruce reported that he and Taisia will be meeting with Matt Cano and Yves Zsutty of the City of San Jose during the coming week to discuss how to best monitor the process to ensure the successful purchase of the right of way from UPRR.

Letterhead approval

A motion was made to approve as the letterhead for SAVE OUR TRAILS communications the letterhead that appears at the top of these minutes.

The motion carried by a vote of 11-1-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Monday evening, October 4th, at 6:30 pm.