

MINUTES

Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting Agenda - Regular Meeting Wednesday December 13, 2023; 630-830 Zoom meeting

1. Greetings/Introductions

Present: Mike Guth, Steve Bakeley, Kristen Sandel, Jerry Busch and Jim Danaher

2. Announcements

Steve announced that he has updated his first aid training for leading hikes. Kristen announced that the Valley Women's Club is sponsoring a candidates forum on February 7th. She is also working on an article on biomass. Jerry announced he is participating in the January 1st bird count at College Lake, and welcomed others to join. The fun starts at sunrise. Jerry also stated that insect and bird populations are plummeting. Mike announced that Coastal Commission put in a very strong letter regarding the Rio del Mar Homeowner's Association.

3. Changes to the Agenda (none).

4. Minutes

Mike moved to approve the November minutes. Kristen seconds. Passes 4-0.

5. Treasurer's Report

Steve gave the Treasurer's Report, including account balances, and mentioned a contribution from Sally Arnold. No action yet on the Wittwer/Parkin check. Mike stated that ExCom has been asking since April or May 2023 how the check can be treated.

6. Nominating Committee report (MG)

Mike said he, Micah and Jerry did a rigorous review of the rules regarding elections when three people are running for three spots. Candidates are Steve Bakaley, Kristen Sandel and Ethan Quaranta. Information was forwarded to Chapter.

7. Elections Committee report (MG)

Mike gave the Elections Committee report, and reported on conversations with Chapter about formalities. Ballots will be forwarded to Chapter.

8. Transportation Committee report

Kristen gave the report. Mike followed by putting up a letter, including comments from Rick Longinotti and Debbie Bulger, directed at the design of the Mission Street project by CalTrans. The question in front of ExCom was whether this response would be in the form of a letter or in the form of comments on an EIR. ExCom discussed points in the letter. ExCom also reviewed a "complete street" diagram, prepared by CalTrans, for Eureka, California. Mike and Jerry discussed the appropriateness of an EIR response as opposed to a letter addressing the same issues. Jerry moved that the letter and comments be approved, with the grammar, clarity and form to be edited, and that today's vote be the final vote. Kristen seconds. Passes 4-0.

9. Conservation Committee

Mike gave the report for the Conservation Committee.

b. Jerry's letter regarding the river letter was delivered to the City of SC. Mike commented on the strength of the letter.

c. City redwood tree appeal: Mike stated that he sent an update to all ExCom members on the effort to save the redwood tree. The question for ExCom is whether the SC should contribute money towards the cost of an expert arborist to write a letter, when the homeowner might not be permitting entrance to the property. Mike prepared an email to ConsCom/Laura Tate requesting a response to the above statement. Micah, who was absent due to illness, sent an email to ExCom during the meeting with pertinent information on the tree situation.

10. Climate Committee

Kristen gave the climate committee report.

11. Political Committee (MP)

Mike gave the report, in lieu of Micah, who was ill.

The political committee gave an early endorsement for Gail Pellerin. Steve moves to endorse. Kristen seconds. Passes 4-0.