

Minutes/Report:

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee Meeting Minutes October 8, 2014

Called to Order 6:32pm

Attending: Mike Guth, Greg McPheeters, Jukka Naukkarinen, Gillian Greensite, Mary Odegaard, Melissa Ott (Outreach Coordinator), **Jeff Palsgaard** (Sea Otter Project), **Rebecca Kay** (UCSC student intern)

Welcome – member comments: None

Guest Presentation

- Jeff Palsgaard, Sea Otter Project, update on programs and outreach for volunteers
 - Survey & monitor marine protected areas – Natural Bridges, Ano Nuevo, Greyhound Rock, Bean Hollow
 - Walking survey to record human activities at three to five spots, same spot each time to see if prohibited activities are occurring (varies by each area)
 - Seeking volunteers who want to help conduct surveys – vehicle required for sites except for Natural Bridges
 - **Melissa:** Promote volunteer opportunities on Facebook, website – redirect to their website

Approval of Minutes –

- Jukka moved to approve the minutes from August. Gillian seconded. Approved. Greg & Mary abstained.
- September minutes with suggested changes – Mary moved to adopt the minutes, Gillian seconded. Approved unanimously. Mike abstained.

Treasurers Report (Mary)

- Melissa's pay beginning to be balanced with Chapter and on our records
- Check written to Native Plant Society has gone through
- Continue to get money in from March fundraiser

Nominations Committee (Jukka)

- October 10 is deadline for candidates to submit intentions to run for Executive Committee, but none have been received yet
- Interview everyone, including incumbents
- By-laws require that there be three to interview nominees
- Jukka moved to add Mary to nomination committee; Gillian seconded. Approved unanimously.
- **Melissa:** Send out another reminder about nominations for ExCom on Facebook, convio

Elections Committee (Mary)

- Will connect with Rita about communicating with her
- Group election committee actually part of Chapter election committee

- November 1 timeline will extend if there are any petitions

Executive Committee (Greg)

- Review National's meeting conduct policy – All meetings should follow conduct policy and if someone on a committee cannot follow the guidelines, Executive Committee can discuss it and reconsider someone's position on a committee. Important that people feel comfortable at meetings.
- **Greg** will send out policy to committee chairs to share with all members as a reminder of expectations for meetings

Political Committee (Melissa) – Nothing to report but will continue to promote endorsed candidates (see Outreach Committee).

Events Committee (Mary)

- Events are supposed to come through the Executive Committee for approval before moving forward on planning
- October 23 Summer Travels event at the Grange
- November Save Upper Campus event at UCSC
- Mike moved to approve October and November events. Gillian seconded to open for discussion. Discussed details of the event. Approved unanimously.

Upcoming:

- December proposed to show a David Brower film and have candidates running for ExCom (not solidified so waiting for approval)
- January sharks event
- February UC Natural Reserves educational event

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

- Committee Report
 - Two visitors
 - Action summary:
 1. *State Wildlife Action Plan*: approval of Erica's letter (with additions), stressing the need to better protect flora (by preserving old trees and planting new trees) in order to protect fauna. To be forwarded to the Executive Committee.
 2. *Mt. Hermon issue*: Calling for an EIR, the draft letter will be worked on by Jukka and Patricia. To be forwarded to ExCom. Water issues paramount.
 3. *Soquel Sustainable Transportation Corridor issue*: Tawn and Patricia updated the committee. Discussed the lack of attention to bike and pedestrian needs along Soquel Ave. We missed the deadline to comment on the draft document. Tawn will look into the timing for the final document.
 4. *Regional Transportation Commission's proposed tax measure*: Concerns about sales tax as the revenue source. Discussion of other options such as Transient Occupancy Tax. Concern that the proposed rail/trail will not easily link with the area as few buses going that

direction. Item to be continued but as quickly as possible. Tawn will get answers to questions raised.

5. Water issues: Report from Erica as rep to city water group. Discussion about future conservation options to include the business community. Education for out-of-state visitors. Erica will contact CWC and Surfrider Foundation reps to ask about attendance and suggest a group meeting.

6. Crematory issue: Update. Move has been approved. No action at this time.

7. Mosquito Noise-maker on SLR: The city has stated that they did not conduct any environmental review before placement of the devices. No research known at this point to assess impact to wildlife. Gillian will contact Audubon, SC Bird Club, Elkhorn Slough. Carol to research manufacturer's information.

8. Other than agenda items: need for a list of ongoing issues that that will be updated at each meeting.

- Strategy discussion about what issues are out there and how we choose which ones to pursue
- **Mike** will send Gillian ongoing task list for Conservation Committee
- Mt. Hermon Letter
 - Jukka will add some changes to reflect the current discussion about run-off siltation in the creek, erosive steep soils, monitoring plan
 - Mike moves to approve it, and Jukka may make changes—if he does, he will share with the group for final approval via email, Gillian seconds. Approved unanimously.
- Sierra Club has done a lot to support sustainable transportation inclusion in Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan – someone should attend the Board of Supervisors meeting and send in a letter of thanks
 - **Greg** will write a draft letter
- Wildlife Action Plan
 - Letter encouraging protection of all trees and planting of native trees
 - **Gillian** will email Erica about adding introductory sentences regarding who is this is to and what it is about specifically
 - Mike moves to approve the letter with the proper introduction and double check with Erica about the agreement with state re: who it is coming from—can we include letterhead if it is coming from multiple parties. Mary seconds. Approved unanimously.

Outreach Committee (Melissa)

- Mike moves, Jukka seconds: In light of Mary not running again, we are moving nominations deadline to following Friday. Approved unanimously.
- UCSC student group forming through Collaborative Learning course – Becca is 5-unit intern who will dedicate 60 hours this quarter to the Club – still determining projects to focus on
- Harvest Festival tabling this Sunday at UCSC
- OPERS Festival: 76 students signed up to learn more about the Club. Thanks to Gillian and Charlie for volunteering!

- Next Convio: Oct 23 event, announcement about extension of nominations filing period, most recent letter regarding SLR watercraft ordinance

Adjourned at 8:53pm