

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Minutes November 12, 2014

107 River St, Santa Cruz, CA

Called to Order 6:35

Attending: Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Greg McPheeters, Mary Odegaard, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic

Melissa Ott

Visitor Karen Lacey; Aluminum serum tests were way high; 22 (0 - 9 is normal); wore a mask outside for 11 months and tests were down at 3; because of spraying/planes outside that are unregulated

Welcome – member comments

Online Votes

Letter supporting Leonie Sherman: 10/27/14

Support environmentalists for Santa Cruz council

After interviewing all the Santa Cruz City Council candidates, the Sierra Club of Santa Cruz was able to identify two candidates that met their high standards and have endorsed Leonie Sherman and Bruce Van Allen. Both of these candidates represent Santa Cruz's environmental values. Our community needs dedicated voices like Van Allen and Sherman to speak up for and protect the natural beauty we all enjoy. We face many big decisions that affect our local environment including population growth, access to clean water, addressing climate change and protecting our open space, rivers, ocean and forests. From their previous work, we trust that Sherman and Van Allen will keep our community safe, sustainable and healthy.

— *Keresha Durham, Santa Cruz*

Went to Sentinel and Good Times and was printed on Friday Oct. 13, 2014

Approval of Minutes

October Minutes

Mike moves to approve

Mary seconds

Motion passed with two abstentions from those who were absent

Treasurers Report (Mary)

Discussed; funds are being maintained

Elections Committee (Mary)

Three candidates; timeline set up for sending out info
Greg will copy Mary regarding election process emails

Nominations Committee

Mike and Mary and Jukka met with the candidates to vet them; positive feedback given about them

Political Committee (Ron)

Election Recap- Soquel Creek Water District - our endorsements helped - our two were elected

Santa Cruz Council did not go so well; our candidates are not winning (some votes yet to be counted) and are unlikely to win

Reflection - get political process going sooner so that candidates have more time to use our endorsement

Events Committee (Keresha)

Slideshow event was successful
Save Upper Campus event as well
Passing the hat seems to work

Next month - a movie - National Sierra Club movie - David Brower film Monumental
Idea to alternate events between slideshows and other events presenting environmental solutions

Mike motions to support event; Gillian seconds; passes unanimously

After the Monumental film event, Keresha will be stepping down as chair of the Events Committee. Keresha has chaired the Events committee since it was formed in 2010.

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

Resolving the time - 7pm; may make an effort to have some meetings in South County

Garbage cans on Boardwalk beach and Cowells uncovered; trash gets everywhere because of gulls and washes away to ocean - draft letter created

Mike motions to approve letter pending one round sent to conservation committee; Keresha seconds; unanimously passes

Forestry issues - Jukka drafted letter; we should have a county representative to oversee forestry issues; in the past the county has overseen forestry, and having no one doing this now affects our ability to review forestry (timber harvesting plans) issues;

With some wordsmithing, Mike motions to approve letter; Gillian seconds; unanimous

Mt. Hermon letter needs to get sent

Discussing list of ongoing issues - what should our priorities be? Should we be “putting out fires” or taking a grander view? Discussion about having a head person for each issue to make sure issues are followed; that there is value in “watch dogging” agendas; about how we can serve as a conduit for groups that are already heading an effort and supporting them; a discussion of how to bring in more active members

Water Update - Had ideas convention; had about 50 ideas presented; now have to process it. Discussion about biologists to help with water

Outreach Committee

Melissa’s Report - has done tabling at UCSC and at the Blue Circle event in Watsonville;
Fossil Free UC movement - divestment from fossil fuel industry;

Update on Interns - Melissa met with potential intern; may have 5 interns from one class; also have a potential intern interested in water;

May do fun events to try to outreach; like hikes geared towards students

Adjourned at 9:05