

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Minutes March 11, 2015

Louden Nelson Community Center
301 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Called to Order 7:05

Attending: Courtney Castanos, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Tawn Kennedy, Jukka Naukkarinen, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic
Colleen McCullough, Mary Odegaard, Lindsay Edelman

Welcome – member comments

Online Votes

Motion to write a letter to the county zoning commissioners regarding saving some trees for the North Coast System Rehabilitation Project passed on February 20th

Motion to approve a letter commenting on the Watsonville Climate Action Plan February 23

Approval of Minutes

- February Minutes

Gillian motions to approve; Courtney seconds; unanimous with one abstention due to absence

Planning commission report (Mike)

Run-off control for projects is dealt with at a level that makes public participation harder; even if there are slopes; will come up in May and we can appreciate that the planning commission is taking it seriously as they recently denied a permit to a project that did not demonstrate adequate run-off control

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

February activity was mellow

Mary reported about how we have 60.4% of the chapter members

Mary also reported about how we pay Ventana for mailers

Also Mary reported about how a forester was paid previously

4,248 members as of Jan 2014

3,432 members as of Jan 2015

Gillian figured out how to deal with the payment for San Benito Rising and that money has been donated

Executive Committee (Tawn)

- March Fundraising Mailer - In process - Colleen is working with Greg on it; have a format and ad spaces figured out a bit; interns have been calling businesses; will be a 11 x 17 folded mailer; Tawn will follow up with Greg about specific print shop and cost; Gillian mentions that Community Printers may be a good business to work with; Keresha thinks it a good idea to have a few different estimates

- Contact Information for Group on Site - Currently only shows excom committee roster without directing people who to call with specific needs (i.e. who to contact for events or conservation)

Keresha suggests having a Google Voice number which can be shared in the group. Gillian feels email should be sufficient and has benefits since it can include subject info. Mike really wants guidance on page about who to contact for what.

Gillian suggests postponing until Greg can weigh in as chair

Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)

- Will Report next month

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

- Parklets - postpone until next conservation committee meeting as new information was received regarding the issue

- Trans Pacific Partnership Position/Action - Trade deal being negotiated behind closed doors with 12 countries on the Pacific rim

An event we can support

Ventana Chapter does not want to oppose Sam Farr on this issue as Farr is a supporter of many other environmental priorities

Gillian motions to ask National about clear guidance if chapter takes a position with Sam Farr that we disagree with; Keresha seconds and includes possibly inviting a member from National to meet with; unanimous

Ron motions to have a meeting with Sam Farr or a representative of his office if necessary to discuss opposing Fast Tracking the TPP; Keresha seconds; unanimous

Erica motions to have a delegation meet with Chapter to increase overall communication and explore issues of concern; Keresha seconds; Most in favor except Mike opposes

Tawn mentions that we should meet chapter first

- National Monument status update - Chapter has endorsed it - so does that bind our hands about taking a position

- Watsonville Climate Action Plan, Preliminary Draft (Tawn)

Mike motions to send the letter with a friendly amendment to have the concerns that Jukka and Keresha emailed about added; Keresha seconds; Unanimous

Keresha's emailed additions: With regard to transportation, we would like to see stronger, more concrete goals for the encouragement of alternatives to car driving which include more frequent, reliable public transit, bicycle riding and walking in Watsonville.

Jukka and Keresha want the letter to include information about pesticide reduction, due to the harmful effects on our water, soil, and health and also because of the role pesticides play in climate disruption.

- Bike Lane Issue (Mike)

Trash cans are put in street; are about to redo contract so may be a good time to bring this safety issue up

Mike motions to draft a letter to send to the supervisors and head of department of public works that strongly declares that bike lanes must be free of obstructions; Ron seconds; Most in favor except Gillian opposes because she feels that the actual letter should be written and approved

- Regional Transportation Committee (Tawn) - Letter is drafted and Tawn will circulate it to excom and is hoping for an email vote by end of week

- Conservation Committee Priorities - postpone and hopefully a whole meeting as a hike and picnic

Adjourned at 9:07