

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee

Minutes August 12, 2015

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

Called to Order 7:07

Attending: Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Tawn Kennedy, Greg McPheeters, Jukka Naukkarinen, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic

Melissa Ott, Mary Odegaard, Carol Carson, Manu Koenig

Online Votes

Vote for a TPP happy hour date passed on August 10th, date for event tentative

Welcome - member comments

Approval of Minutes

July minutes

Gillian moves to approve; Jukka seconds; pass with two abstentions due to absence

Guest Presenter – Manu Koenig, Rail Trail “Trail Only” Campaign

Manu - Would support a study to have only a trail instead of both rail and a trail; sites issues such as cost, potential low ridership, plus time frame for developing the rail; he also sees that car transportation will be changing with electric vehicles

People would still have to get to the train which may take a long time, plus there is a “last mile” issue for getting to the final part of where you are going

Some comments opposing were that a rail would really increase options for people plus that a rail would potentially be more socially equitable

Also a question of the legality - currently the money allocated for the trail is given with the stipulation that we have both rail and trail

Treasurer’s Report (Mary)

Got information from chapter; we owe them money due to payroll; total expenses currently exceed income; about \$466 difference a month

Mary will ask Trician to send out summary to executive committee so that committee can better understand the situation and ask if we can have electronic copies prior to our meetings.

Executive Committee (Greg)

Nominations Committee

- o Select members and Chair - Greg, Tawn, and Mary are volunteering
- o Two seats up for vote, currently held by Mike and Gillian

- o Class of '14 – Keresha, Ron, Jukka, Erica
- o Class of '15 – Greg, Tawn, Courtney

Greg motions that the nominating committee will be Greg, Tawn, and Mary with Tawn as chair of committee

Passes unanimously

Election Committee

- o Select members and Chair

Greg volunteers to be on committee; Mary also volunteers, plus Erica

Make sure to pay attention to detail; bylaws say statements are not to be edited other than for obvious grammatical errors plus make sure things like names of voters are not visible on ballots

Greg motions to have himself as chair; with Mary and Erica also on committee

Unanimous

County Cannabis Commission - Greg Caput, Chair of Board of Supervisors – Rep and Alternate (Greg) -

Will be a committee with members of both the cannabis industry plus at least one environmentalist; apparently person has been selected

Gillian volunteers, Mary is also interested; so we can send her name in case the seat reopens

Ron motions to nominate Gillian with Mary as alternate; Keresha seconds

Passes unanimously

Ron will be calling to pass the info on

Events and Outreach Committee (Greg) -

Tabling opportunities; OPERS fall festival October 22; Fall Festival September 29, National Drive Electric Day Sep. 20th;

Invited to be co-sponsor of Santa Cruz Open Streets - \$250 and have a booth; or booth for free if have volunteers to manage a barricade crossing; Sunday October 11th

John Howerton interested in doing an event on the Pacific Crest trail

Invited to be co-sponsor of film festival at UCSC; will show Merchants of Doubt (climate denial industry); Week of November 2nd, no specific date yet; no financial commitment, just outreach

Woodstocks - Melissa is in touch with them and thinking to wait until students come back; if people mention Sierra Club we would get some portion of the proceeds

Keresha moves to approve of co-sponsorship Merchants of Doubt film at UCSC; plus to support Tawn is hosting a youth bike ride with his work; would like Sierra Club co-sponsorship, superhero theme; no financial support; September 18th

Open Streets as a barricade group (no financial sponsorship; plus a fundraising event at Woodstocks; an event with John Howerton; Harvest festival; table at OPERS event, plus National electric day; plus Tawn's bike event; Ron Seconds
Unanimous approval

Tawn is hosting a youth bike ride with his work; would like Sierra Club co-sponsorship, superhero theme; no financial support; September 18th

Committee Report - Upcoming Events Political Committee (Ron)

Sierra Club Presidential Endorsement Process Conservation Committee (Greg)

We can only give our position on local issues;

Conservation Committee - National Monument Proposal - Greg will work with Celia on issue and then come back to the committee - we want to express our concerns to National Melissa volunteers to help with facilitating meeting in future if Gillian is gone

Committee Report - Water (Erica)

Summary of developments - aquifer recharge first and potentially reuse later

Proposed County Zoning Changes (Gillian)

Gillian will continue to update us on issue; yes we are still interested

National Monument Proposal (Gillian)

Keresha will call to check up on issue with national

Maybe we should follow a grievance procedure (not yet as we are waiting for Greg and Celia to work on their piece) - we need a timely response and send an email to Greg letting him know she will call

Tree Removal Program in Bay Area (Gillian)

Campaign against Eucalyptus trees has about a 20 year history; current proposal would remove 450,000 trees in East Bay hills.

FEMA has a grant using 3 public land managers, under auspice of fire management to manage the forest and thin.

Since Oakland fire in 1991, movement to get rid of eucalyptus.

Eucalyptus seen as culprit; however all official reports concluded it started as a grass fire that was thought to be extinguished but wasn't; spread to oak trees and then was a structure-fuelled fire that consumed everything in its path including the eucalyptus trees

Recommendations that came out of that were to manage all the species plus have better coordination among fire personnel and defensible space around structures.

The trees are actually not a higher fire risk than many other species as the trunks are bare and tall.

FEMA had a good original plan - to thin and manage the trees

Sierra Club has sued FEMA over its plan and wants the removal of all 450,000 trees. This will be done in phases. The end result is the loss of all the trees. Herbicides will be used to kill the trees although the Sierra Club is not weighing in on the method of eradication.

Sierra Club is in opposition to many Bay Area groups regarding this issue: Save East Bay Hills; Hills Conservation Network; Death of a Million Trees; Coalition to Defend East Bay Forests; SF Forest Alliance; Save Mt. Sutro Forest and Tree Spirit Project.

A petition is circulating directed to National Sierra Club protesting this lawsuit.

Tues. August 25th at 4pm demonstration outside the Sierra Club office protesting their action.

Native Plant Society and Golden Gate Audubon` are the other groups involved; want to return it to pre-European grassland with no trees.

Jukka suggests contacting National

Keresha suggests also contacting the chapter

Greg thinks we shouldn't meddle in another chapter's business, (Greg wasn't there for the meeting) however Jukka points out that it affects our membership plus Gillian states that their position is based on misinformation

Gillian will draft a letter. Ask what is their reasoning and give some accurate information.

Decision to send to SF Bay chapter that may also be sent to National/Chapter

Maybe invite a member of the other chapter's group to attend one of our meetings

Gillian motions to adjourn; Jukka seconds; motion passes unanimously

Adjourned at 9:09