

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee  
Meeting Agenda, November 11, 2015  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM  
225 Rooney St, Santa Cruz, CA 95065**

**Called to Order 7:10**

**Attending: Courtney Casteanos, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Greg McPheeters, Jukka Naukkarinen, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic**

Mary Odegaard, Steve Lustgarden, Marsha Hudson, Becca Fenwick, Trician Commings, Jack Nelson

**Online Votes**

Motion to co-sponsor a Santa Cruz Climate Action Network Event on Nov 22nd with a \$50 donation passes on October 18th

**Welcome – Member comments**

**Membership communications issues discussion**

Keresha contacted Greg Casini - can we promote other groups events? He said yes; and Ventana also agrees; so yes keep supporting other groups

Individual members may express dissent; as long as we express that we are speaking as individuals - references a document that she will send around

Gillian asks for Greg McPheeters to contact Greg Casini to clarify about individual speaking out with regard to our specific bylaws

**Approval of Minutes**

- October Minutes

Clair Fliesler gave a presentation representing the City of Santa Cruz department of planning and community development on explaining the city's work on the active transportation plan

Also a need to check if there were online votes

Ron moves to approve the minutes; Courtney seconds; all who were in attendance at that meeting voted

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Are in the red for the year by six thousand dollars; so we need to get some fundraising done  
Our membership is up by about 400 new members!

There is a program where we can get all the proceeds for the first year for a new member;  
Trician has copies of fliers

### **Executive Committee (Greg)**

- Staffing, Outreach Coordinator Position

Clearly an important position; drains our funds though

May put issue on hold until new year

John Howerton may be posting some things

There is an issue with some people not getting the emails that are being sent out

### **Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)**

- Committee Report

- Sending Group Emails, Updates

- Filling in other gaps from vacant Outreach Coordinator Position

Clearly an important position; drains our funds though

May put issue on hold until new year

John Howerton may be posting some things

There is an issue with some people not getting the emails that are being sent out

### **Conservation Committee (Gillian)**

- Water (Erica, Ron)

The Sierra Club endorses..... We look forward to a robust conservation plan.... Also maybe mention/use language from Desal Alternatives.... Also want protections for low income rate payers

Gillian motions to have Erica and Ron craft a letter endorsing the plan with emphasis on conservation and concerns for low income ratepayers; Ron seconds; unanimous

- RTC Tax Measure recommendation - We had passed a motion previously yet we now have more information with a survey. The Campaign for Sensible Transportation crafted a position based on the actual survey results that were done; yes people want to reduce traffic congestion yet not necessarily through freeway widening. So we may rescind our position and support the work the Campaign for Sensible Transportation has done. Their work is in progress, the actual document they have may be changing in detail yet not in ideology.

Keresha moves to write a new letter to include this new information; Ron seconds; unanimous  
RTC is meeting next week Thursday morning; so if possible get the letter before then; Greg will draft a letter

- Hwy 1 Draft EIR - Is a plan to fail on climate; will increase greenhouse gas emissions; The report discusses doing something - creating more lanes - or a do nothing solution; so they didn't look at possible options; some information in the report may be untrue or not complete - i.e dismissing doing an energy analysis

Public meeting on December 3rd at 6 - 8:30; at Live Oak Elementary

Kim Shults is contact person; Caltrans also sponsors it;

### **Presentations**

- Peter Gelblum, Climate Change Event at Mountain Community Theater; Weekend of Dec. 11/12/13;

An international event; 100 events going on in 9 countries at this point; will coincide with climate meetings in Paris

In addition to theater pieces (10 short plays), looking for music, comedy, scientists from UCSC, and people to talk for last 15 - 30 minutes about what people can do about climate action

He is asking for us to sponsor it and also seeking speakers (especially as relates to activism opportunities

Would be helpful if Peter gets plugged in with the 350.org group

### **Return to Conservation Committee (Gillian)**

- City LED Lighting Upgrades

Retrofitting to LED lights; save a lot of energy. However there is a spectrum from blue to red; all research says that the blue end of the color spectrum is harmful for human health and wildlife, ; upsets nocturnal animals, can mess with sleep; and has more light pollution. Our city's general plan calls for moving towards less light pollution and moving towards a dark sky. There have been many lights already installed at the blue end of the spectrum. Similar thing in Davis - and the public rose up to protest and their city changed the lights at a high cost. We can complain and PG&E can put on little shields to dim the lights; haven't done that yet, may be a process. Please comment quickly using links Gillian sent out. Also there is an issue with more light isn't safer; these lights create a lot of contrast which allows dark shadows.

Zero public hearings about the issue.

Also putting lights along the river, which is closed at night - unsure why we need lights there. A question about if it is possible to put filters on to change the spectrum

Kerasha motions to draft a letter to city, county, and PG&E, regarding the human health and wildlife concerns; safer alternatives, and is supportive of the move to LEDs in general; Courtney seconds

Passes unanimously

Gillian will draft letter

- Cowell Water Quality Group Updates - meeting cancelled; update later

- City Parks Master Plan

Will need to pay attention to issue as moves forward

- Sierra Club Bay Chapter Non-Native Tree Removal Program

The SF Bay Area chapter's support for removing half a million trees in the East Bay hills is still of concern. Their plan calls for the use of Round-Up in the removal. We sent a letter inquiring about it; their reply sent more misinformation. There are many people not supporting the Sierra Club because of this issue. Gillian would like to write another letter specifically commenting about how there is still room for learning about certain specifics.

Courtney motions that Gillian drafts a letter addressing these concerns; Ron seconds; Motion passes with two voting against.

8:40 Nominations/Elections Committee (Greg)

- Review and Vote on Candidates for Executive Committee Election (closed session, all candidates and non-Executive Committee Members asked to step out)

6 Candidates for 3 spots

Greg motions to accept the 6 candidates and get them on the ballots; Courney seconds; unanimous

May try to give them space on the website, etc. to give them a chance to distinguish themselves

Adjourned at 9:33