

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee  
Minutes January 13th, 2016**

**Louden Nelson, 301 Center St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**Called to Order 7:00**

**Attending: Courtney Casteanos, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Becca Fenwick, Greg McPheeters, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic, Jukka Naukkarinen, Jack Nelson, Mary Odegaard, Trician Commings, Linda Schutte**

**Welcome – member comments** - Linda came in who is interested in combatting garbage at main beach

**Online Votes**

Motion to send letter to Bay Area Chapter regarding their promotion of vegetation large-scale tree removal was passed on December 14th, 2015.

**Approval of Minutes**

December Minutes

Ron moves to approve minutes with changes that Gillian put in; Courtney seconds; unanimous approval

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Chris Broadwell passed on and left a considerable sum of money; now we may have money to hire an outreach person or other things; brought us more than back into the black for the year! The donation may be limited in how it can be spent so we will need to look into that - it may be only used for education, etc., possibly not for political. ExCom expressed gratitude to Chris Broadwell and Jack spoke words of appreciation for his past work with and support of the Sierra Club.

**Election Committee (Greg)**

- Elections Reporting, Welcome New and returning Committee Members

Issues with ballots - out so late, not many people voted. Also there were some members who did not receive ballots - such as Jukka and Courtney. Jukka and Courtney perhaps should follow up with National and figure out why they did not receive ballots; Greg may check into some as well. Also possibly we should move on to having an online election.

**Executive Committee (Greg)**

**Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Sec, Treas.)**

- Ron moves to nominate Greg as chair; Gillian seconds; unanimous except Greg abstains
- Greg moves to wait for Vice Chair

- Greg nominates Erica as secretary; unanimous except Erica abstains
- Greg nominates Mary and Trician as co-treasurers; unanimous

### **Committee Chairs**

- Greg nominates Gillian as chair of conservation committee - unanimous
- Greg nominates Nikki Byrant as events and outreach chair; would include membership - most in favor with one opposition due to concerns about having someone as chair who isn't on excom/may not be in excom meetings;
- Greg nominates Ron as political chair; unanimous; Keresha and Gillian indicate they would like to be involved
- Greg nominates Jack as chair for Transportation Committee; unanimous

### **Outreach Coordinator Position**

Will take time; so need to get going if we want to have someone by Earth Day. Some points - get someone who can help with diversifying the club, possibly by having a Spanish speaker; also would be good to have someone who manages interns. Also a concern about spending more than we take in, so perhaps have fewer hours. Also to diversify with age as well as other demographics. Another element of the outreach position could be to connect with existing groups as well.

Ron motions that we go forward with the process to start hiring an outreach coordinator; Jukka seconds; most in favor with one opposition due to concern about the job description including fundraising activities or not.

### **Meeting Time**

Some people may be interested in having the meeting time moved to 6:30 - 8:30  
Jukka motions that we change meeting time to 6:30; someone seconds; unanimous.

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

Committee Event LineUp

Next Meeting Feb 3rd at Staff of Life, 7-8:30 (outside)

- o Jan 21 Dr Amy East (already approved)
- o March 24 UCSC Bee Researcher "The Buzz on Bees" (request approval)
- o May 19 "Two Side of the Andes" (request approval)
- o July 21 Don H. presenting slides and stories on the parks of Southern Utah (req app)

September 15th - Steve Mandell; UCSC astrophysicist; an event about photographing wildlife

Gillian moves to approve all events; Keresha seconds; unanimous

An idea to build in an introduction about Sierra Club during the beginning of events, and to have excom members introduce themselves and circulate as an outreach opportunity

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

- Request from WILPF to contribute \$50 to Sentinel ad urging Rep Farr to vote NO on TPP  
Ron moves to give \$50 to WILPF; Keresha seconds; unanimous

- Hwy 1 Draft EIR - Deadline for comments is Monday (Tuesday because of MLK day); there is support about sending a letter however but it may be Sunday before a draft letter is circulated to the ExCom by email.

- Coast Dairies / National Monument Update - National has confirmed that they support Boxer's bill; so the official Sierra Club policy will be to support the Monument. They asked us to write a letter to BLM and send to National who will share with Boxer's staff. Gillian thinks it would be good to get out soon; Keresha and Courtney indicate they would be happy to help Gillian draft a letter.

- Felton Meadow (Mt. Hermon Project) - A project that will use some acreage; however there are issues about water use, lighting, noise, and traffic. We had called for an EIR (along with other groups as well) and the county decided to do that. The draft EIR will be out in spring; Gillian asks that we get on the email list so we are updated when the EIR comes out.

- De Laveaga Shakespeare project (Public Hearing Jan 21st city planning commission) - There is a significant area of A-grade coastal prairie which will have impacts (.3 acre); they are planning to mitigate the impact. It will be a stage, etc. There are sensitive plants in the area. Gillian will look online to see if other groups have weighed in already on the EIR; if other groups are involved we can support their work with a letter for the Planning Commission hearing on Jan. 21st.

- Bay Area chapter response to our letter re tree removal project -

Greg got a response from Greg Casini regarding our communications with another chapter. He indicated that the other chapter would have priority; and no mechanism for us to contact National with such a complaint.

Gillian got a response - from Norman LaFource - who says we are wrong and that the trees are especially dangerous. He said that Australians call the trees gasoline trees - which Gillian says is clearly wrong as Australians do not even use the word gasoline. Tasmanian veteran firefighter confirms the trees are not singled out in Australia as LaFource claims. Gillian will draft a response to LaFource and share with ExCom for approval.

Adjourned at 9:00 pm