

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 13th, 2016
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA**

Called to Order 6:36

Attending:Gillian Greensite, Greg McPheeters, Jukka Naukkarinen, Jack Nelson, Erica Stanojevic

Mary Odegaard, Debbie Bulger, Len Bloch, Nikki Bryant

Welcome – member comments

Greg signed up for climate ride; fundraising for nonprofits, may post on the FB page

Online Votes

Motion to co-sponsor a women's hip hop climate change event passed on March 12th

Motion to send letter to New Leaf regarding the Rail Trail passed on March 12th

Motion to co-sponsor Democratic Women's Club forum event on March 19th passed on March 12th

Motion to send letter to county committee regarding cannabis cultivation ordinance passed on April 9th

March Minutes

Gillian moves to approve minutes; Jukka seconds; unanimous with one abstention due to absence

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

Some money came in from fundraising appeal; net positive

March event was well attended and also a net positive

Guest Presentation

- Debbie Bulger, Meder St Development

Chair of local chapter of California Native Plant Society

An area that is up for development for a large private home; there are (were) endangered species on the property, the Popcorn Flower. The Ohlone Tiger Beetle hasn't been seen in 10 years however should be able to live in the property if it is property maintained.

We had given money regarding this previously to support hiring a lawyer so Debbie wanted to follow up regarding the matter.

After coordinated effort the previous property owner decided to sell the property. Then a long period of time was spent in negotiations with new owner. The settlement includes a habitat monitoring plan with very specific activities. So now there is a slightly smaller project - still a

large house; however no horses. The house will have a green roof, which will help visual impacts. There will be grazing on the property - goats. The settlement includes descriptions to things such as how high the grass will be, etc. There will also be mowing. The homeowners will allow CNPS access yearly. Some invasive plant species will be removed. There will be monitoring by an independent biologist on a yearly basis, at a biologically appropriate time, with measurable goals. The agreement lasts 40 years. If the goals are not met then the city has the right to take over the management of the property. The owner will pay for the plan and management and monitoring activities.

The city will have a meeting to approve the development; the CNPS sent a letter saying that they reserve the right to ask for an environmental review if these conditions laid out in the settlement are not approved of. Currently the plan is to have a mitigated negative declaration.

Executive Committee (Greg)

Officers (nominate and vote on Vice Chair)

Two people previously nominated - Gillian and Becca - Committee voted for Gillian

Outreach Coordinator Position - got approved and posted

o Receiving resumes through Friday - about 10 or 20 resumes received

o Hiring Committee to review resumes, interview candidates (nominate and vote on Sub-Committee)

Greg moves to create hiring committee to report back next week with Nikki, Becca, Gillian, and Greg; Jack seconds; Unanimous

Political Committee (Ron)

- Political Committee Endorsement Process

A questionnaire has been sent out to candidates for supervisor; responses have been received and likely the committee will go through the information to determine who might receive an endorsement; it should be soon in order to be useful for the candidates

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

- Cotoni-Coast Dairies Inventory (Vote on letter)

Gillian moves to approve; Jack seconds; approved unanimously

- Community Choice Aggregation (Vote on letter)

Greg motions to approve letter with one discussed change; Jack seconds, unanimous

- Next Meeting Wed April 27th

Transportation Committee (Jack)

- Letter regarding Metro Cuts (Vote on letter)

There are major cuts, and at the same time a sales tax is proposed for widening Highway 1. The sales tax money should be shifted to pay more for transit rather than widening the highway; how to have the letter take the most effective tone and information was discussed.

Greg motions to approve the letter with the “foresighted leadership” sentence modified and also a reread of the whole thing with tone in mind; Jack seconds; approved with one abstention.

- Sponsorship of Hardy and Lepe events, Thursday May 26th (Vote on sponsorship)

Greg motions to support event, help promote it, and contribute \$500 to event. Gillian seconds, unanimous

- Next Meeting TBD

Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)

- Recent Events

o March 24 UCSC Bee Researcher “The Buzz on Bees” - was successful

- Upcoming Events

o Earth Day Santa Cruz, Sat April 16, 11-4

o May 19 “Two Side of the Andes”

o July 21 Don H. presenting slides and stories on the parks of Southern Utah

o Sept 15 Steve Mandel “The Art of Nature Photography” (request approval)

- Next Meeting May 4th at Trician’s House, 7-8:30 (outside weather permitting)

Adjourned at 8:38