

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, May 11th, 2016
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA**

Called to Order 6:36

Attending: Keresha Durham, Becca Fenwick, Gillian Greensite, Greg McPheeters, Ron Pomeraz, Jack Nelson, Erica Stanojevic
Morgan Ashley-Eguia

Welcome – member comments

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

Online Votes

Motion to endorse John Leopold for County Supervisor passed on April 20th

April Minutes

Gillian moves approval; Greg seconds; unanimous except with abstentions due to absence

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

Net positive from March fundraising efforts

Note that the fundraising effort was a last minute effort; so a way to improve would be to make sure we are prepared earlier next time. Also next year maybe a fundraiser dinner or such. For data purposes - are the same names donating to events as well as to the letter outreach efforts? Becca volunteers to coordinate with Mary to compare those lists

Political Committee (Ron)

Board of Supervisor's Candidates Forum

Endorsed one candidate, John Leopold

A different group asked us to advertise an event - Freedom Forum

This group may not have all the same values we have, so do we promote an event with them? Some concern is expressed regarding their values which do not completely correspond with ours.

Perhaps event with a bolded line saying it is not a Sierra Club event and also saying we really encourage questioning candidates; as well as mention that we have endorsed a specific candidate, John Leopold

We agreed to put future candidate forums on meet-up with disclaimer plus comment about encouraging membership to question candidates get involved.

Outreach Coordinator

Introduction of Outreach Coordinator Candidate to Committee - Morgan Ashley-Eguia
Time to interview candidate

(CLOSED SESSION)

Ron moves to make offer to Morgan as outreach coordinator; Jack seconds; unanimous

(Opened session)

She was informed (waiting outside) and accepts position

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

- Plastic Water Bottle Ban in Santa Cruz

Meeting with Save our Shores; Leader of it will reach out to Central California Coast Sanctuary Alliance; she will work on reactivating that group. Gillian will contact people in San Francisco to learn from them. The group thought that starting small would be a way to go - like only on public property at first rather than starting with a ban on places like Costco. By consensus we would like to support the continuation of this effort.

- City of Santa Cruz Water Rates - Desal Alternatives supports a tiered water structure based on water usage, which also encourages conservation; a fixed rate is also built into it. Desal Alternatives supports the having a rate based 90% on water usage and less on a fixed rate. Some questions about whether or not this actually is socially equitable. Gillian motions to circulate a letter in support of the new rates and possibly send out our own letter; Becca seconds; unanimous

- PG&E Tree Removal Project - Tree removal along major gas lines; especially along Graham Hill Road, Santa Cruz, and Aptos. Thousands of trees will be slated to be removed. Not one example nationwide in 30 years of a problem caused by a tree with gas lines (except one outlying situation with a lightning strike that hit a tree and then affected the gas lines). Also a note that a gas leak is not actually an emergency situation - the gas line can be shut off and then the situation can be dealt with; concrete and such would need to be removed as well and so tree roots would not be substantial issues when the gas line would have to be dealt with. Gillian would like to send a letter saying we have concerns and send to supervisors and others of relevance. Palo Alto is standing up to PG&E on this issue. There will be some public meetings - we should publicize these. Gillian will also contact a lawyer to see if there is a legal route to take.

- Cannabis Cultivation Ordinance - Gillian went to Board of Supervisors meeting; and spoke to how the environmental issues were not really addressed in the ordinance. Next step will be for the ordinance to have either an Environmental Impact Report or a negative declaration.

- Heritage Tree Ordinance Update - Council had to vote to go back to the old ordinance (were forced to by a lawsuit).

- Next Meeting: May 25, 6:30-8:30, Louden Nelson

Transportation Committee (Jack)

Campaign for Sensible Transportation has been busy with sales tax issue. An event with Susan Handy is happening Saturday morning; an event with Chris Lepe is happening soon in Watsonville.

The Regional Transportation Commission will be doing public polling starting soon. This poll may be to get support with current plan for widening the highway rather than to question what people actually want.

Jack will be editing a letter to the Regional Transportation Commission and get it out for review for us before it needs to be sent in before the 27th. A note that Greg will be gone from the 22nd - 27th for the climate ride so Gillian would be the contact at that time.

June 16th there will be a meeting for the Regional Transportation Commission - will be publicized

- Next Meeting TBD

Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)

- Earth Day Event Report - went well!

- Upcoming Events

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"

- Proposed Events (request approval)

o June 23 Beach Bonfire Potluck at Seabright Beach -

o October – Jessie Street Marsh Event - Rachel O'Malley suggested a different time frame

Greg motions that we approve a June 23rd Beach Bonfire and a Jessie Street Marsh Event with with date to be determined; Gillian seconds; unanimous

- Next Meeting – August 3rd – location TBD

Executive Committee (Greg)

- Chapter Liason (Currently Greg is the Chapter Liason) - they have quarterly meetings; Gillian and Erica volunteer to potentially go to meetings as a way to increase communication between the chapters.

- June Meeting – Executive Committee Hike in place of business meeting. Proposed 6-8 PM - (instead of 6:30 start time).

Jack motions to have the June meeting to be as a hike, potentially at Wilder Ranch; Gillian seconds, unanimous.

Note that today is Becca's birthday, congrats!

(CLOSED SESSION)

- Outreach Coordinator Position

o Review of Candidates and resumes from hiring Committee

o Option to vote on making an offer to a candidate based on Hiring Committee Review and Recommendation.

Adjourned at 8:33