

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

Called to Order 6:41

Attending: Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Ron Pomerantz, Jack Nelson, Erica Stanojevic

Mary Odegaard, Morgan Ashley-Eguia, Tom Stumbaugh, Becky Steinbruner, Peter Scott

Online Votes

Motion to sponsor Romero Institute climate change event by promoting it however not be associated with any religious activities passed on July 7

Motion to sponsor a Candidate's Forum hosted by the Peoples Democratic Club passed on June 6

Motion to send a letter to the Metro Board of Directors regarding Metro service cuts passed on May 25th

Motion to send a letter to the Santa Cruz Water Commission regarding water rates passed on May 13

Welcome – Member comments

As previously discussed at the ExComm, Senator Monning had pending legislation, SB 968, to do an economic analysis if Diablo Canyon was shut down. Within the last month there has been an agreement by PG&E, environmental groups, and labor to not renew the operating licenses and allow operation until 2025, pay for worker retraining, build renewables, and assist the tax base. Recently Ron and 7 others met with Senator Monning to request changes to SB 968 that would attempt to speed up the closing of Diablo Canyon's 2 reactors. With 4 earthquake faults nearby the continued operation of Diablo is like playing a Fukushima version of Russian roulette. Ron will attempt to keep the ExComm current regarding this issue.

Approval of Minutes

- May Minutes

Request to have Erica resend the minutes when Greg sends the request for agenda in the future so people can review them

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

Net income is positive for quarter

Fundraising from March was about net positive \$500

Difficult communications from chapter regarding allocations/billing
Solid savings account due to previous donation

Events and Outreach Committee (Greg)

Report from Outreach Coordinator (Morgan)

- Training on programs
- Helping Trician with Utah presentation in July
 - On meetup and Facebook; working on getting it on Good Times, CoastLines and other publications
 - Would be good to have reminders on meetup - a few days before an event and two weeks ahead of time
 - Have links to different pages on events
- Direction to Morgan about having agendas more easily accessible and also to have meeting times/locations more easily accessible on website
- Morgan had a question regarding volunteers
- For events we are not sponsoring however we want to promote - just meetup and Facebook or website as well? Yes just on meetup and Facebook
- If possible please add bus lines for events and add an encouragement for carpooling

Discussion of Outreach Capacity and additional projects to work on

Upcoming Events

- July 21 Don H. presenting slides and stories on the parks of Southern Utah
- Sept 15 Steve Mandel "The Art of Nature Photography"
- Jessie Street Marsh Event (Erica/Morgan)
 - Check with Deborah Elston regarding neighborhood association regulations for party
 - Check with neighbors about hosting
 - Denise Holbert - lives there - Jack please send email address to Erica
 - Ask to see policy
 - Keresha says mid-October because UCSC students will be here and would be good opportunity to learn about this environmental issue
 - Common Ground at Kresge and Sustainability Office

Next Events Meeting – August 3rd – location TBD

Presentation (after 7:15, part of Conservation Committee Reporting)

Becky Steinbruner, soil contamination at Aptos Village Project

- In March developer (Bary Swanson builder) discovered an underground storage tank of petroleum - estimates of 200 gallons to 1,000 gallons
 - Developer estimates 2 - 3 hundred gallons, Becky estimate 1,000 gallons

- They channeled into a trench they dug
- Removed tank without obtaining permits first - did it and then got fined afterwards and permits obtained secondly
 - Supposed to be supervised, was transported illegally, leaked, was supposed to be packed in dry ice, etc.
- Soil sampling - came up with contamination hits - benzene, diesel, gasoline derivatives, high levels of lead, nickel, zinc, etc.
- Got rain right after dug up
- The soil samples were done in an area about 75 feet away from where the tank actually was according to eyewitnesses about location
- Other soil samples also came up with high levels of contamination
- Apparently high level in county asked builders to clean up soil
- Concern that all contaminated soil wasn't actually removed/remediated
- Concern that the actual tank site wasn't excavated or remediated
- And may be two other sites of potential contamination, one with another buried tank
- Will send a link with report and lab results
- Reported summary results are different than actual lab report results of 250 pages
- Will meet with another attorney; Bill Parkin did not take the case
- Becky saw tank on March 1st 2016
- Becky has eyewitnesses saying tank was taken out that night
- Company says tank was taken out the next day
- Gillian points out - two issues - one is the illegal activity by the company and second is the actual contamination issue
- Soquel Creek Water District has a well across the street; and a new well will be dug that isn't that far away
- Riparian corridors are close by
- If a letter is written maybe we can ratify it
- Also Ron suggest contacting supervisor John Leopold for advice
- Also a suggestion to talk to the group at the next event at the Grange

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

PG&E Tree Removal Project

- City has been silent on issue; County and other communities have been more firm and asks PG&E to actually look into environmental consequences
- 38 public trees slated for removal, hundreds of private trees (about 275 and 175 of those are heritage trees)
- Public has right of refusal and
- Keresha moves to approve letter with edits; Ron seconds; passes unanimously

Plastic Water Bottle ban and sharing ideas for next steps

- Gillian met with mayor and head of Save Our Shores and a person who works to have water at events
- Mayor was lukewarm about approach with this
- Next meeting at Boardwalk
- Eventually will need promotion activities and interns

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

Transportation Committee (Jack)

- "TRIP" sales tax formula includes 21.5% for Highway 1 auxiliary lanes within a 25% highway corridors category, and funds categories for transit, bike/ped rail-trail, local streets & roads, and rail corridor.
- Transportation committee was divided on either opposing or staying neutral on the tax measure
- Committee for Sustainable Transportation has yet to decide on their position
- July 19th CSFT meets
- August 19th deadline for filing oppositional ballot statement
- Question about what our members actually want
- Draft EIR has been pushed off to the side
- Should have member meeting/email poll about what members want our position to be

Next Transportation Committee Meeting – Date TBD – location TBD

Adjourned at 8:32