

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes, December 14th, 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, Jack Nelson, Jukka Naukkarinen, Ron Pomeraz, Erica Stanojevic**  
Morgan Eguia, Alex Yasbek

**Online Votes**

Motion to send letter to city council regarding proposed parking garage on farmer's market site passed on December 4th

**Welcome – Member comments**

**Approval of Minutes - November Minutes**

Gillian motions to approve the minutes with her changes; Keresha seconds; unanimous with two abstentions due to absence

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

We did get some paypal donations through our website; Keresha worked with Ted Merrill to add a Tax-deductible Donate button on the website; Tax-deductible donations go to Sierra Club Foundation and can not be used for political lobbying.

There are some challenges getting chapter to keep up with bookkeeping.

**Executive Committee (Greg)**

- Executive Committee Elections Update

Mailer is out; votes will be due January 4th

- Review of appropriate use of Executive Committee Email List

Reminder to not share internal emails without having a discussion

Also Greg's view that it is about excom items, not as a discussion list

Keresha feels that the excom list has been used as a discussion list

Gillian feels that conservation committee emails are better for discussion

Jack feels that there is some use of judgement about when to use a list for non-local issues

Others agree use some discretion and judgement when using lists

Greg suggests reviewing list membership in January (as is typically done in January/February for Conservation, Outreach, and Transportation Committee lists)

- Review Annual Report, process by which it went out, general process for messages to the membership
  - Positive that it got done; some reaction from an email from one person; Becca also expresses thanks for doing the work; and some requests to have excom review emails of this significance
  - Greg will send out the policy we have regarding sending out group communications, since it was not followed in this case.
  - Keresha suggests adding this policy to the bylaws
  
- Review Representation of the Club at public meetings
  - We had drafted a letter to the council and a member did not read the letter we had written at the council meeting and rather had discussed tangents during the allotted time
  - A response was that this type of feedback was micromanaging; that the letter was summarized in the time allotted; and that negative feedback will cause people to be less interested in participating for Sierra Club
  - Another excom member present felt that the speaking was done well; and that leaving out a part about the location of the library was fine as that wasn't an environmental issue specifically
  - Overall when speaking for the club - do stick to what we want said and use the time you have to communicate that message effectively
  
- Review Level of Detail in Minutes, votes, etc.
  - Should names be in minutes - especially with regards to voting
  - A discussion; most people feel motioning and seconding should be in minutes

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

- Report from Outreach Coordinator (Morgan)
- Event Report: Nov 19, Amazing African Adventures w Jan Noto - successful event; people enjoyed it
- Upcoming Events
  - o Jan 19, Two weeks kayaking the Grand Canyon, with Haven Livingston
  - o May 18, National Parks in Zambia and Zimbabwe, w Barry Bowman
- Becca moves we remove the National Marine Sanctuary event and replace it with the kayaking in the Grand Canyon event; Ron seconded; unanimous
  - Gillian wants to co-sponsor a Dark Skies event; and Keresha may want to host a Before the Flood Screening
  
- Next Meeting – Date TBD in January/February – location TBD

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

- Leaf blower ban campaign (target 7:45PM) Carol Wilhelmy and Jeff Ringold
  - o CHASE (Coalition for a Healthy and Safe Environment)

- A note that this isn't a major issue however it is something we would be able to do, (as opposed to say, banning cars) and actually does have more health impacts than would seem obvious
  - A need to be sensitive about creating a partial ban which would be sensitive to economic impact on people's landscaping jobs
  - To be careful to not raise the issue publicly until there is enough support to raise it to council effectively
  - One gasoline powered leaf blower has very high emissions
  - A question about involving the social justice groups
  - One thought is to have a certification for people who use quieter electric equipment
  - A question about including other gas powered tools; right now that isn't the strategy however perhaps in the future if this ban is successful
- Update on Wharf Master Plan
    - Sent back for Environmental Impact Report - An op-ed by Gillian, 2,000 signatures; a letter from a lawyer and our letter
  - Update on plastic water bottles ban campaign
    - Meeting set for early January
  - Cowell water quality group - has another meeting coming up - screened off North end of wharf from birds and has been a bacterial count drop; Gillian urges caution as there is a large sandbar and a current pattern variation may have affected the results and wants to see several years of results before issue is considered solved
  - Discussion and action on THP shared previously (UCSC storing chemicals and nuclear waste) with Jukka
    - Returned back to department of forestry because there are some revisions
    - Regulations from UCSC should be on the UCSC site regarding nuclear regulations
    - Using 2005 EIR
  - Water - Erica
    - Met with Ron Pomerantz and Soquel Creek Water District
    - Is a state agency to approve in-lieu transfers; maybe get public mobilized to put pressure on that agency to speed up transfer approval
    - We perhaps ought to get involved in the groundwater management agency
    - Santa Cruz water director Rosemary Menard has not yet drafted a specific plan regarding transfers and Soquel Creek is waiting for one
  - Next Meeting: Jan 25, 6:30-8:30, Loudon Nelson

### **Transportation Committee (Jack)**

Lots of energy at Campaign for Sensible Transportation meeting; the division about Measure D is past and people seem eager to work together moving forward

November 29th - Active Transportation Plan was approved by a city group; should go to City Council early in 2017

Regional Transportation Committee had a meeting - public was against pulling out rail tracks

Highway Widening - may not propose other alternatives and so may have issues with EIR

Also a concern about the plan to build the library plus parking on farmer's market site - Campaign for Sensible Transportation is looking into alternatives for creating parking

- Next Meeting – Date likely January 3rd or 4th – location TBD

Adjourned at 8:40