

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 12th, 2017
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA**

Called to Order 6:35

Attending: Becca Fenwick, Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Greg McPheeters, Jane Mio, Jack Nelson, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic, Alex Yasbek
Morgan Eguia, Mary Odegaard, Mark Mesti-Miller

Online Votes

Motion to send letter to Parks Commission regarding Parks Master Plan update was passed on April 4

Welcome – Member comments

Approval of Minutes

- March Minutes - Ron motions to approve; Becca seconds; unanimous

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

Not much of a change - have money in checking; challenging to communicate with chapter.

March Appeal – Annual Appeal Letter Follow Up (Greg)

Have gotten a good response thus far; about \$300 in red right now however appeal just went out so may get more as time passes

- One person objected to our bonfire in June and will not donate because of it
- One person wants to have the trail with no rail and wrote that as a comment

Executive Committee (Greg)

Executive Committee Retreat (Erica and Jane)

Discussion of priorities; Erica will send out agenda draft for people to view; will be at Greg's house May 13 10am - 2pm

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

Review Committee Bylaws - currently not expanding; aren't getting new members with a focus on specific campaigns

- Have been getting people bringing issues directly to excom rather than going through conservation committee; have been reactive though
- Becca to draft something regarding ideal workflow/protocols which she will bring to retreat

Responses to Sierra Club Letters (often we get no response to submitted letters)

- Where would a written letter go to?
- Or if we don't get a response at all..... How do we know if something is circulated?
- How long do we wait before we follow up?
 - Follow up with phone calls - did get letter and what do you think? And in person meetings?
 - Greg making sure to follow up with responses
 - Marks says to make sure to copy the city clerk; and at least someone else; administrative secretary for each department
 - Jack suggests that with some letters to also cc the city council or whoever else for some additional political pressure

Parks Master Plan and next Parks Commission Meeting

- Is CEQA being followed? The issues of mountain biking is on the May 1st agenda; these issues have large impacts and so we should likely spend more attention on this
- Haven't gotten a response regarding getting an environmental review for the parks plan
- Draft Parks master plan has no environmental plans/policies nor assessment/inventory of our wildlife in our parks
- Also an "adopt a park" piece and the city will need to make sure volunteers know how to specifically care for each park
- Mid-Peninsula Open Space Regional plan - how they have approached their open space; a good resource to look at as a positive plan

Plastic Single Use Bottle Ban Update

- Katherine Devey (director of Save Our Shores) and Gillian contacted the city on this; concern about if there isn't a water source available; however often there is a source available
- City has an ordinance regarding single use bottles however people are using single use bottles
- Next step - a larger push on this issue
- Should be something to do on Earth day

- Divestment Campaign (Erica) - Can promote on website/facebook - Erica will work on getting info together with Morgan

- We could write a letter thanking the city - Greg will draft

- Jessie Street Marsh Update (Erica) - update - Met with Rachel O'Malley and Vicki Winters - we will discuss possible letters regarding the marsh at our next conservation meeting. Also we may open the conversation with the police department.

- Carbon Fee and Dividend (Alex)

- Robin Mann - VP Sierra Club called Alex - conversation turned negative - stated that the Sierra Club does not support a market based solution, specifically this one; because she did

not believe it was an equitable solution - she was involved in something in WA which was a carbon fee and tax break - different from a dividend

- Alex then did a lot of research - believes that the solution is equitable
- Wrote to the CA Sierra Club also - asked how to work together - wrote to all the candidates running for the board right now - 4 were positive and informed
- Believes that the current policy is being driven by a small minority in the Sierra Club
- Policy coming down - Carbon Market guidance document
- Rick asks for Alex to pay attention to this document and let us know what he thinks of it
- Ron wants more information and education

Water

- Also a change in Desal Alternatives structure a bit
 - Water commission is funding about \$100,000 study to update desalination plan
- Next Meeting: April 26, 6:30-8:30, Loudon Nelson

Events and Outreach Committee (Nikki/Morgan)

- Need for new Committee Chair (Nikki is stepping down)

- Report from Outreach Coordinator (Morgan)
 - Santa Cruz Indivisible went well
 - Tom Killion event - went well also - full room

- Upcoming Events

- o April 22, "Earth Day Santa Cruz" 11-4 San Lorenzo Park (approved) Need volunteers and participation for this! - some topics to include - plastic bag ban; parks master plan
- o May 18, "National Parks in Zambia and Zimbabwe" - Barry Bowman (approved)
- o May 21, "Watsonville Open Streets" (approved)
- o June – date TBD, Beach Bonfire and Potluck (approved)
- o July 20, "What's Happening on the San Lorenzo River" – Coastal Watershed Council Board Member Greg Larson and Outreach Staff Lorrie Egan (approved)
- o Date TBD likely fall, "Before the Flood" movie (approved) -

-Tree Planting Concept (Alex) - Coordinating with groups/neighbors to have a positive campaign

- Concern about follow up - link with communities
- Concern about securing space, etc; politics about where to put them can be complicated
- Coordinate with other groups doing it also
- Support within group
- Gillian will contact City Arborist

March for Science on Earth Day - Starts at city hall at 10am and ends at San Lorenzo park at 11 for Earth Day - Morgan will post on meetup

People's Climate March Sat Apr 29th - 1:30 at San Lorenzo Park - Jack will carry half of the banner if someone else will also volunteer - maybe find a volunteer at Earth day

Next Meeting – tbd (likely late April or May)

Transportation Committee (Jack) - Next Meeting – Wed May 17 7pm – location TBD

Adjourned at 8:45