

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, May 10th, 2017
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA**

Called to Order 6:30

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 in support of Support for City of Santa Cruz's Urban Greening Program
Application passed on April 20

Welcome – Member comments

Approval of Minutes

Gillian moved to approve minutes; Alex seconds; unanimous

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

Similar situation; communicating with Ventana is challenging
More than 50 responses to fundraiser mailing; net positive
Money from Chris Broadwell donation last year - 5% went to national
Greg will check in with Rita

Executive Committee (Greg)

Executive Committee Retreat (Erica and Jane)
Please bring own beverages; thanks to Greg for his deck; Becca for easel and paper; Jane for everything; Rick for leading a section; Jack for snacks; group effort thanks everyone!

June Executive Committee Planning Hike - planning
Start earlier - at 6
At Wilder Ranch to maximize light

Events and Outreach Committee (Nikki/Morgan)

Need for new Committee Chair

Report from Outreach Coordinator (Morgan)
Great Earth day; also the climate march went well

Upcoming Events

- o May 18, “National Parks in Zambia and Zimbabwe” - Barry Bowman (approved)
Need more volunteers

- o May 21, “Watsonville Open Streets” (approved)
Ideas for an activity?
Getting a bilingual volunteer?
Asking the public what issues they want to explore; and also bring our recent letter regarding pesticides

- o June – date TBD, Beach Bonfire and Potluck (approved)
Weekday; Greg and Morgan will work on

- o July 20, “What’s Happening on the San Lorenzo River” – Coastal Watershed Council Board

- o Member Greg Larson and Outreach Staff Lorrie Egan (approved)

- o Date TBD likely fall, “Before the Flood” movie (approved)
Good idea to have a discussion afterwards; and possibly invite other local groups to table

Proposed Events

- o November 16, Leonie Sherman, tentative “Bicycling around Iceland”

- o January 18, Donna and Peter Thomas “Following John Muirs walk from SF to Yosemite”

Gillian motions to approve the proposed events; Becca seconds; unanimous

Jack wants to be conscious about our promotion of events that involve international travel - are we encouraging people to take international flights or are people happy to learn about events they will never do themselves and thus they have no carbon footprint?

- Next Meeting – tbd (likely late April or May)

Conservation Committee (Gillian)

Jessie Street Marsh Update (Erica)

Erica will get a meeting going with the Parks department, Friends of Jessie Street, and police department

Tree planting - Gillian working on communicating with city arborist;

Spring or Fall is best time to plant; there are two tree planting grants that have been written that we may be able to help with

Would be planted on median strips; city parks, and other public areas. Must be near a water supply and on city property

May be good to communicate with neighborhood groups; Jane volunteers to do so

Alex communicated with someone from the city of Watsonville; she suggested working on getting trees planted in fall 2018 in order to get grants

There is a list of city approved trees - mostly crepe myrtles and such; so may want to work towards getting good species planted

Jane notes that female trees - fruiting/flowering trees - have been systematically removed over time across California as maintenance workers have pushed for easier clean up

- Next Meeting: May 31, 6:30-8:30, Louden Nelson

Guest Presentations

Leonie Sherman, Pogonip Trails

She wrote a letter to the Sentinel regarding Pogonip and mountain biking

New bike paths planned - potentially near meadows and Harvey west side. Two new trails - a "directional" trail (likely downhill) and another trail that would connect to the university

Notes that in upper campus it isn't as pleasant a place to hike as it used to be. She notes saws and other activities that have cut illegal trails

Has a concern that this will happen in Pogonip

Concern that mountain bikers haven't come through on keeping mountain bikers on trails

Wants mountain bikers to demonstrate that they can manage what they have well before they get new trails

Notes that Pogonip has lots of biodiversity and needs protection; does not want to see it become a manicured park

Discussion about why Sierra Club should or should not get involved

Coming up on June 12th city council meeting

Gillian motions to take a position of concern and write a letter to council as stating our concerns; Jack seconds; most approve except Greg

Erica motions to reach out to Mountain bikers group; Alex seconds; unanimous; Rick will spearhead

Jane notes that data must be first - that if an activity is allowed it must first be studied so we know the impacts

Mark Miller mentions that a letter may be seen as "anti-mountain biking" and so encourages some communication with the mountain bikers first so we can be on the same page about things we care about - biodiversity

Gillian notes that many people have tried to have these conversations over the years

Transportation Committee (Jack)

- Next Meeting – Wed May 17 – location TBD

Adjourned at 8:51