

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2017**  
**6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Resource Center for Non-Violence**

**Called to Order 6:37**

**Attending: Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Greg McPheeters, Jane Mio, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic, Jack Nelson, Alex Yasbec**  
Steve Bakaley, Jena Weinberger, Karsten Mueller, Rachel O'Malley, Nina Donna, Mark Mesti-Miller, Zia Isola

**Online Votes**

Motion to support Walkable City event passed on October 1

**Welcome – Member comments**

**Approval of Minutes**

- September Minutes  
Ron moves to adopt minutes; Gillian seconds; unanimous

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

- Update on Accounting with Chapter  
Gillian suggests checking in with National to ask what steps we should take

**Nominations Committee (Greg)**

- Update on candidates and interview process.  
- Elections Schedule  
o October - Nominations Committee makes recommendations and Petition Candidates can petition  
o November – Candidate statements  
o December – Voting

**Executive Committee**

- Review of Ex Com direction and follow up from Retreat in May (Jack)  
Alex mentions how some things take time - tree planting campaign now beginning  
Alex mentions bringing in South County - still need to work on that  
Gillian mentions how the conservation committee can be stronger  
Did not yet survey members  
Have been working on issues that we identified as important  
Maybe next retreat we can work on having more specific tasks assigned afterwards; with more clear checking in on goals

Possibility of checking in with national about joining Loma Prieta; Rachel suggests that ecologically it may make sense to join Loma Prieta as we share a mountain range with them  
Discussion about outreach position - may need to really discuss soon  
Outreach position can make valuable connections - not the kind of work that can be left up to the volunteers on the committee

Action item - Greg will check in with Morgan about getting the survey done. Maybe each submit questions

Will put on next month's agenda

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

#### **Bird Safe Building Standards Proposed Ordinance (Jane)**

Various cities have bird safe building ordinances - Oakland being one of the most restrictive. Bird populations next to riparian habitats are especially vulnerable. Jane has spoken with Lee Butler, the new planning department director - and he is open to conversation about it. Jane has drafted a letter regarding the issue and would like to send it to the city. She is interested in continuing the conversation with the city and working with other groups to move this forward. Gillian suggests revising the beginning and end of the letter and offered some grammatical suggestions.

Karsten asks a specific question regarding impacts on bird populations - Jane notes that the links on her letter show this information; Jane is clear that it is a significant impact on birds  
Jane suggests putting in numbers specifically related to Santa Cruz bird deaths due to windows; there are not currently studies regarding this

Alex asks who this would apply to - all new buildings or not to houses - Jane states that it would include all new buildings and should not be burdensome on home builders. Jane also states that the work would actually make the buildings more energy efficient and so would actually

Ron questions where the most significant impact would be - for example would addressing feral cats be more effective? Gillian suggests that this is something that we can accomplish - Jane is interested and it is something the city can address - so perhaps both issues are worthwhile.

Jane says that the data from the American Bird Conservancy shows solid data regarding deaths due to building heights; with feral cats there is less data

Ron wants the specific info regarding numbers of bird deaths in the letter

Jack moves to support the letter with some editing and circulating the final letter by email; Gillian seconds; unanimous

### **College Lake**

A lake in south county which has huge bird populations; in the conservation committee we had a visit from Jerry Busch. The lake is drained for part of the year; the way it is drained is very

favorable to birds. The Pajaro Valley Water District may purchase (or already has) the land and then keep the water level stable which would negatively impact the birds. We may have a field trip for October 22nd, a Sunday; and potentially include other groups. Karsten suggests asking land trusts to join the excursion or to potentially include them in some way. The alternatives, such as groundwater recharge, have been completely dropped from the water district's proposal.

### **Trail realignment volunteering in Pogonip**

Jillian met with Meta Rhodes, Cathy Lyons (a biologist), Peter Scott, and Mountain Bikes of Santa Cruz and went to the trail to observe the realignment. The trail is eroded and some realignment sounds like it would be positive. The city will contact Gillian when they are ready to begin work. The trail is a hiking only trail. Gillian would check with Meta that the city insurance will cover the event completely. Steve suggests we need a point of contact from the meetup; Gillian says she will be involved and so can do some of that part of it, including helping people make connections.

Gillian moves that we list this as a trail work event supporting the city for our members; Alex seconds; unanimous

### **Downtown Recovery Plan**

We submitted comments on behalf of the Sierra Club; planning commission meeting October 12th; 7pm City Council Chambers

Next Conservation Committee Meeting: Oct 25th, 6:30-8:30, Loudon Nelson

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

- Report on Events
  - o Treasured Lands slideshow
  - o Santa Cruz Open Streets
- Upcoming Events (approved)
  - o November 16, Leonie Sherman, "Bicycling around Iceland"
  - o January 18, Donna and Peter Thomas "Following John Muir's walk from SF to Yosemite"
  - o Date TBD, "Before the Flood" movie
- Proposed Events (need approval, was not approved in July)
  - o NA
  
- How do we do more outreach to our numerous members (Rick)  
Rick suggests moving this to next month for the sake of time
  
- Should we more aggressively focus on lower carbon footprint events? (Jack)  
Discussion about the nature of the events - should they be local to reduce carbon footprint? A note that these outings may also be attended by people outside Santa Cruz county

A discussion about our events - do events that involve international travel promote more travel or allow people to learn about different places without actually going themselves?

Jack questions - what about disclosing the carbon footprint for travel events?

Jane suggests maybe discussing it at the events- to start sharing the information at events perhaps

Gillian asks that we have busses listed for the events letting people know how they can arrive sustainability

She read an article about why it is hard to get people on board with addressing climate change - we must be cautious about how to approach it to prevent people from feeling guilty and then not being involved

- Next Meeting – tbd

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

- Letter to City of Santa Cruz regarding formation of an Active Transportation Subcommittee (Rick)

Gillian makes a suggestion to have Rick amend the letter so that neighbors are represented on the committee and/or that they are outreached to actively

Jack moves that we approve the letter with amendments; Rick seconds; unanimous.

- Next Meeting – tbd

**Adjourned at 8:31**