

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

**Called to Order 6:37**

**Attending: Becca Fenwick, Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Greg McPheeters, Jane Mio, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic, Jack Nelson**  
Steve Bakaley, Mary Odegaard, Morgan Ashley-Eguia

**Online Votes**

Motion to approve candidates for election for executive committee passed on October 19

Motion to send letter to Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors regarding the Cannabis Cultivation EIR passed on October 31

**Welcome – Member comments**

Jack shares artwork with River Street sign, the one near highway 1, underwater

**Approval of Minutes**

October Minutes - Ron moves to approve; Gillian seconds

Discussion about how to take minutes - what points to write; which to not

Specifically in regards to rather use people's names or not

Comment regarding importance of capturing the flow

Ron amended motion to take out names from the October minutes; Gillian seconded; approved

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Update on Accounting with Chapter - Greg reached out to Adrian from National; person in charge there did not receive correspondence from chapter. Also a request to receive from National what they would have given chapter so that we can at least do our books with that information.

Did receive more checks for about \$100 in response to the March appeal

Received a correspondence regarding the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz and we have received a grant recommendation

Note about how meetup site is not set up to accept money; someone wanted to donate and we weren't set up for it

**Executive Committee**

Follow up on Survey (Greg)

- Morgan does not have capacity to currently work on member Survey
  - Gillian will think about questions; Steve will work on figuring out how we would do it
- Intent would be to figure out what our members' priorities are

#### Chapter affiliation (Greg)

- Greg Casini indicated that that would be likely to change chapter affiliation
- Question about us becoming chapter rather than remaining as group under Ventana which is not as active as us
- A comment about noting that group dynamics change sometimes
- A note that we don't know where their meetings are although we have a seat on their chapter; there is a possibility that they aren't meeting

#### Update on Outreach Coordinator Position (Greg)

- Morgan's last day is on the 14th which is coming right up
- Need to consider whether or not we want a new outreach coordinator, especially in terms of the situation with Chapter

#### **Nominations Committee (Greg)**

Jena Weinberger has resigned from being in executive committee election

- Down to seven candidates for five seats

#### Elections Schedule

- o November – Compiling candidate statements for ballot, posting to site
- o December – Voting (Mailer with Chapter)

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

##### 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

#### Laptop Acquisition for Events – Expense Request

- There was an issue getting a laptop for October event. Would help if we don't have to worry if presenter has compatible equipment
- Steve did some research and cheapest Mac he saw was refurbished going for \$300; Windows is slightly cheaper
- Steve believes we are asking for allotment of \$500 for a laptop
- Have been using Morgan's computer; which is an issue if she isn't present
- A question about whether this include software
- A question about whether we should pay for "Geek Squad" to make sure we can maintain the computer
- Discussion about Mac or PC

- An idea to put out a request from members to see if someone is willing to donate their old laptop; they could get a tax write off maybe
- Would be quite useful for outreach coordinator
- Becca notes that it would be convenient to hold our documents
- Gillian moves to obtain a Mac; start with attempting to get a donation and with a maximum of \$1500 spent; Jack seconds; Ron makes a friendly amendment to also ask members if anyone is also willing to work with tech support; unanimous

How do we do more outreach to our numerous members (Rick)

- Right now email blasts go out to about 7,000 email addresses
- We have about 4,000 - 5,000 members
- Not all current members receive emails
- Can't tell who is who and system to go through it is cumbersome
- We don't have permission to add/subtract names from email list
- Current list includes people who may be past members and perhaps maybe people who have simply signed petitions, etc.
- Idea to have with every email blast - one take action; one what is going on; and events
- Recent emails have only been events
- Also can use facebook, meetup and group website for outreach
- Also can physically mail members; this has a price tag
- Suggestion of a process where before an email is sent out then asking for input from chairs of committees to ask if there is info going out
  - Or having committee chairs send updates to Steve to include on email
  - Note that there is at least 3 weeks lead time to get out an email; if not more because there is some system where we need to be calendared with National which is complicated
  - Suggestion of getting on this calendar on a regular time every month and then chairs can send info to Steve
  - Note that we are supposed to be working with chapter on this because it uses one of the allocated emails
- Note that it would be good to more regularly have an excom member at events stating what current issues are and how to get involved

Next Meeting – tbd

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

“Save the transit option” Coalition

- Our current position is to support the transit plus trail plan.
- Questions about animal corridors; fencing; numbers of trees that will have to come down; how it can fit into the area
- Background - when RTC bought rail corridor they received a state grant stipulating some kind of rail transit on the corridor

- Unified Corridor Study (UCS) will examine rail and bus transit on the corridor
- Note that trail is being built - segment 7 - before UCS is complete
- Note that Arroyo Seco was not noted as a wildlife corridor in the environmental document
- Rick requests our group join a coalition which would be to preserve the option of the trail and putting out educational information about preserving the transit option
- An ExCom member (Rick) will attend the coalition's meeting and bring educational materials to ExCom for endorsement
  
- Coalition includes
  - Land Trust of SC county; Ecology Action; Friends of the Rail and Trail, Campaign for Sensible Transportation

"Transit with Trail for the Climate" forum in Jan/Feb

- A part of a larger transportation justice conference type event
- Rick motions that we support the transportation committee's concept of an event that would either be stand alone or within larger conference event; Ron seconds; one no vote that feels that it would be good to know our member's input before having such an event; four votes yes; two abstentions; one no vote

Letter to City regarding Pedestrian Safety (Jack/Debbie)

Gillian moves approval of Debbie's letter; Jack seconds; unanimous

Discussion about who to send it to

Next Meeting – tbd

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

Bird Safe Building Standards Proposed Ordinance (Jane)

- Gillian and Jane met with Lee Butler, planning director; met regarding putting bird safe designs as an ordinance in the building code. He said it was a long process that takes 30 - 50 hours; would be interested in exploring standard conditions which would be integrated into the planning permits
- Discussion about it being in residential building codes; some places it may be a good idea
- Discussion about having standard codes apply to all new buildings - like maybe a window coating on glass
- Gillian and Jane will get back to him with some suggestions regarding details

Public Banking (Erica)

- Information regarding purpose - to handle divestment funds from cities
- Erica will send out info to group and also begin to communicate with State
- Ron moves to appoint Erica to represent group at meetings

Jessie Street Marsh - need to figure out process with State to figure out legal issues

- Gillian moves that we find out/ask permission from state to send a legal letter regarding Jessie Street Marsh; Ron seconds; unanimous

College Lake (Gillian) - Has been a lake since mid 19th century

- Four competing interests
  - Agriculture
  - Water district
  - Birds
  - Steelhead
- Lake is drawn down April - May each year by farmers
- In this process it has become the 3rd most significant waterfowl and birding spot in entire Pacific area
- The things that sprout when drawn down feed a huge variety of birds
- We were asked by Watsonville Wetlands Watch about expressing concerns by the Pajaro Valley Water Agency
  - Water agency would like it to stay full
  - Would use water for irrigation
  - Would wipe out most of the birds and lots of special plants
- Our chapter - Ventana - authorized a group to look into the whole region water issues to work with water districts and Army Corp; met tonight (Nov. 8)
- Suggestion to hear what happened at this meeting before join coalition
- Pajaro river levy raising is involved as part of overall water picture
- Scoping meeting in December

Next Conservation Committee Meeting: Nov 29th, 6:30-8:30, Loudon Nelson

Next Executive Committee meeting: December 13th

**Adjourned at 9:00**