

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 11, 2018
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson

Called to Order 6:34

Attending: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Mark Mesti-Miller, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic
Mary Odegaard, Nina Donna, Amelia Conlen, Brett

Online Votes

On March 29 a motion to allocate no more than \$200 for Earth Day funding passed

On April 3 a motion to send a letter regarding requesting an extension of the EIR review period for the Student Housing West Project at UCSC passed

Welcome

Announcement

Amelia Conlen - City of Santa Cruz has started a bike share program - will be with electric bikes. Bikes are eight-speed, electrified pedal-assist models with no throttle, meaning users have to pedal. Shown that electric bike share programs are used for longer trips and more often. Monthly passes or pay as you go. Intended for short trips - people are directed to bike shops for longer day trips. GPS system on bikes to help with potential theft issues and also to gather data about trip locations and durations.

Approval of Minutes-March meeting

Mark has a note that the minutes would include that he was the one who was responsible for checking for the use of our logo status

Treasurer's Report (Mary)

A check went out to Ventana Chapter to settle the difference between what we owed Chapter for Outreach Coordinator payroll costs for and what our Group was due for our monthly allocation from National for 2016 and 2017.

Executive Committee

Retreat planning (Erica)

- Arts council of Santa Cruz county at the Tannery
- Rachel offered Fridays afternoon, evenings at her family Santa Cruz mountain property

March fundraising letter (Gillian)

- We have extra letters - Trician has requested that we each come up with 10 people who may not have donated. Then Trician will check if they are members and if so send the letters out.
- We need to finalize the email details
- A question about sending out the hard copy at this time of year as usually the deadline for hard copies is March
- Steve will find out if we can send the hard copies out in April
- Mary volunteers to get a card to send to Tom Killion as a thank you for letting us use his artwork

Proposed walk along rail line with members of Greenway & FORT (Gillian)

- A suggestion that this matter goes to transportation committee
- A response that there was a request for our excom to attend this walk; and that it is a political issue as much as a transportation issue
- A question about the intent of the walk - is it a presentation by Greenway?
- An answer that it will be a chance to ask questions about the issue
- A majority of the excom members are interested in such a walk
- Greenway will get permission to walk this area
- A concern that this will turn into a several hour debate; some feel that this may be the point of the walk and that this would be ok
- A thought that perhaps there would be some equal number of representatives from FORT and Greenway
- A suggestion that there is an agreement about tone and number of people before we go
- Gillian will draft an email response, including a question about how many people will be welcome to attend - should we open this up to all committee members?
- Rick reports that he and Mark have agreed to meet with the Greenway group again to identify points of disagreement

Effective meeting suggestions (Keresha)

- Shared a handout regarding norms for collaboration and effective meeting
- Some potential suggestions include putting a time on agenda items and having a time keeper to help us limit agenda items and cover all items.
- Suggestions about how to monitor for the vibe of the meeting
- A name lister - will list people whose hands are up so the chair doesn't have to monitor this all and multi-task during meeting.
- Phrasing ideas about how to use active listening and use inclusive speech
- Concerns that implementing some of these ideas may not be appropriate in our group
- This method works with meetings of 4 to 40 people to help it run efficiently.
- An idea to table this discussion for the retreat
- Also letter writing norms may be discussed at retreat

Earth day: any final items/issues

- Jukka has been doing a fantastic job organizing

- Difficulty getting trees as part of gifts for becoming members on Earth day
- A suggestion to do native plants instead of trees - which realistically may die
- Cover for the pop up is broken and we need to repair it
- A suggestion to simply gather the acorns from coastal live oaks
 - A concern that this can cause sudden oak death which is a huge problem as it gets moved around

Political Committee (30 mins)

Recommendations from Political Committee: need for vote

- Watsonville City Council - no answers to responses
- A few uncontested races - we won't take position
- Santa Cruz Superior Court - Syda Cogliati -Committee felt strongly that she should be endorsed - recommended that we do read her responses
- Keresha moves that we endorse Syda; Mark seconds; unanimous
- Board of Supervisors - District 4 - 5 candidates; 3 submitted answers
 - Endorse Felipe Hernandez
 - Mark motions to endorse Felipe Hernandez; Rick seconds; passes with Gillian abstaining
- Board of supervisors -Steve Pleich and Ryan Coonerty
 - A suggestion that we have a few members have a meeting with him to ask him about some of his previous votes
 - For the meeting - Nina, Keresha, Gillian, Rachel, Ron
 - Steve moves to defer Coonerty's endorsement until after a meeting with him; Jane seconds; unanimous
- Measure S - a neutral position is advised; or potentially an opposition
 - Would raise the sales tax; is hard for people who are barely making it
 - The tax is permanent.
 - Money is not earmarked for anything.
 - A thought that if we are to oppose it we should actively do so - we may not be ready for that
 - Mark makes a motion to take a neutral position on Measure S; Steve seconds; passes unanimously
- Measure U - a growth limit for UCSC
 - Keresha moves to support Measure U; Steve seconds; Passes with Mark opposing
 - 19th at 7pm - at Police community room - neighborhood issues - Gillian receives support to speak about Measure U support as a representative of Sierra Club
- A question about the Assembly District 30 race - Chapter is taking lead as a part of it is in Santa Cruz County
 - Direction to share the emails as information is learned

Steve moves that we accept the Political Committee members as Ron proposes; Mark seconds; passes with one abstention.

Petition to reform Prop 13.

- Ron encourages our support of the measure; it would not change the residential law however would revise the business side

Events and Outreach Committee

Outreach Coordinator/intern discussion/decision (Steve)

- Steve recommends against getting an intern because we'd have to do at least as much work to hire someone and we'll be back at it in 7 months
- Question about hiring an outreach coordinator; does cost money
- If we hire someone, they should report back regularly what projects they have done.
- New policy from Sierra Club - for equity reasons all interns should be paid
- An argument that the good thing about interns is that they are short term - we can try them out and see if they are a good fit
- A concern that the outreach coordinator would be an expense that would not be returned
- A concern that this would essentially use up our money - a large portion of which was given as inheritance from a local elder who may not have wanted it used in such a way
- A sentiment that interns should be paid well
- Who would be on our hiring committee - what would this person do - and other questions
- Perhaps a subcommittee to discuss the possibility of an outreach coordinator
- An idea that our retreat could be a time to identify some of this
- An intern would get paid the same amount as an outreach coordinator
- Erica moves that we have a subcommittee to discuss the issue; Ron seconds; unanimous
- Jane, Steve, Gillian and Keresha volunteer for subcommittee

Updated Outreach Communications Guidelines (Steve)

- Tabled for later

Approval for \$250 for table at Open Streets Watsonville (Steve)

Rachel moves to approve the event; Jane seconds; unanimous

Approval for \$54 for room for Get Ready for Trail event for members (Steve)

Rachel moves to approve event; Mark seconds; passes with one abstention

Steve motions to fund Trail with Transit event for \$322; Keresha seconds; passes with three abstentions

Keresha explains that Event venues have not been approved by Ex Com in the past since they come from the separate Event Funds, that all the events raise. The last event raised \$460

- Gillian said we should do this for expensive venues.

Keresha explained that the Events Committee has paid more for other venues such as the Museum of Art and History and the Seymour Center.

Transportation Committee

Approval of draft Trail With Transit announcement for Watsonville (Mark)

- A concern that this issue is contentious and so Ex Com should review the verbage of any communications that go out
- Keresha motions to approve the flyer; Steve seconds - passes with one opposed and two abstentions
- An offer to live stream the event
 - A concern that some attendees may be concerned about being on livestream
 - There can be direction to only include the panelists and not the audience at all on the livestream
- A note that the video of the previous event - the logo needs to be blanked out
- A concern that having cards and questions may not be the best way to host an event
- It is explained that there was a discussion and the Transportation Committee and organizers found more reasons to use the card system for questions.

Sierra Club Transportation policy information (Keresha) - will be sent by email - tabled

Conservation Committee

PGE and tree removal/attorney's letter update (Jane)

- We are not signing onto the letter itself and would be instead sending a letter in support of this.
- Regards about 30 trees cut down on Ocean Street Extension, including heritage trees
- There may be questions about the legality of this
- The Ocean Street Extension neighborhood group hired an attorney and the group has asked us to support that letter
- Jane motions that we send a motion of support; Rachel seconds; unanimous

Vote to add Steve Leonard to ConsCom (Gillian)

Steve moves to add Steve; Rachel seconds - unanimous

Letter re Annual Fish Sampling issue: rec. from ConsCom (Patricia)

- An question for Patricia to send about the background for this
- Gillian will do this by email

Other issues tabled for later

Jessie St. Marsh letter (Erica)

Letter re Streambed Alteration Agreement: rec. from ConsCom (Jane)

Sierra Club letter to CA Coastal Commission re LCP Amendments (Mark)

Monterey Bay Community Power: Community Advisory Board: shall we recommend an environmental appointment to this body? Who? (Ron)
Update on Beach Flats Community Garden lease (Rachel)

Adjourned at 8:40

Next Meeting: May 9th