

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2018

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Branciforte Small Schools

840 North Branciforte Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Called to Order 6:35

Attending: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mark Mesti-Miller, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic
Mary Odegaard, Karen Maki, Jack Nelson

Online Votes

A motion to send a letter to the City of Santa Cruz regarding a streambed alteration agreement passed on May 19

A motion to move to the new website on July 1st passed on May 30

A motion to send a letter to the Regional Transportation Commission regarding the Progressive Rail contract passed on June 6

A motion to send a letter to the City of Santa Cruz regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Lorenzo River Parkway passed on June 18

A motion to send a letter in support of a grant for construction of segments 8 and 9 of the rail trail passed on July 9th

Welcome

Approval of Minutes - May meeting----5 mins

Discussion of candidate voting (electoral) said we could decide to meet in private however vote must be in wrote "private" - needs to be corrected

Steve moves to approve as amended; Jane seconds; approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report (Mary)----5 mins

2 more donations from March appeal; 40 donations in total; definitely received more money than we paid for mailing

Request to see names of donors so that we can thank if we see around town

Waiting on numbers from chapter regarding how much we owe/get money from
Karen Maki is helping facilitate communication with chapter

Announcements

Discussion of meeting location

Decision that we will meet more at Branciforte Small Schools for excom meetings - will check in with others not present

Jane found out that flood control work for the river is starting on Monday - still nesting season
Supposed to have a survey 15 days prior to start day; biologist is supposed to go through 2 days before

Nesting is one thing; fledgelings are another

Gary Kittleson is going to be surveying Saturday and Sunday

Migratory birds are there too

Last year started after August 15 and got work done in time (even with extra work); no reason for them to do this now

In past a number of people have confronted public works around this issue

A suggestion to mark the native plants if anyone has bandwidth

Jane requested that Leslie Keedy (city arborist) go with a downtown street activist to mark natives

An event tomorrow - Plastics in the Ocean

A note that in the newspaper there wasn't a mention of the Sierra Club regarding the event although the event was publicized

Gillian will be speaking at Coastal Commission for two issues - one to read Sierra Club statement for another chapter

Guest Presentation....10 mins

Lisa Sheridan, head of Sustainable Soquel will present an update on the Nissan Dealership plus a request for (modest) Sierra Club funds to support the lawsuit.

In past we wrote a letter opposing dealership

Rachel moves to support lawsuit with \$250; Jane friendly amends to \$300; Rachel accepts; Erica seconds; Keresha friendly amends that saying with the money say we are open to hearing more from them. Passes unanimously

Gillian will check if with legal to check about details - such as if they use our name for publicity

Events and Outreach Committee (Steve)....10 mins

Vote for approval for Steve Bakaley to be our Group webmaster

Regulation that in order for Steve to get onto listserve, he needs to be named in minutes

Erica motions that we approve Steve as webmaster; Rachel seconds; unanimous

Request from ConsCom for a future event on light pollution/impact on wild-

life and wetland habitat with lighting expert Lisa Hescong

- Could include local photographs showing areas of very high light pollution
- Timing wise booked out through January; March is starting to be open
- Earliest possible date would be great
- If we have people power we can do earlier
- May be nice to do in winter because of early darkness
- Takes about 6 volunteers - parking cars; setting up AVs, setting up chairs, assembling snacks, taking it down; volunteer time from 6 - 9
- Erica and Gillian and possibly Rachel offer to volunteer as this is a conservation committee request and we'd like to support
- City has committed to no more than 3000 Kelvins for new lights

Will get a used Mac for group for under \$500

Conservation Committee (Erica)

Update on Bird Safe Design Guidelines (Jane)...5 mins

Erica and Jane met with city planners regarding their draft for the standards

They presented their draft to the developer community

Draft does not include many areas of city that may affect birds

Jane contacted other organizations which gave their input

We sent a letter with our and the other organizations concerns to the city

They received and we are awaiting a response regarding what will be incorporated into draft

Jane will be connecting with more organizations as well

5G wireless - a note that we had a presentation by some community activists regarding the issue; connected them with other activists

A request to host an event regarding such an issue

Transportation Committee (Jack)

Discussion regarding library/garage issue

June 12th City staff had study session regarding their options regarding market - they haven't got any good solutions for the market

They will be going to council in August

Downtown Library commission is looking at narrower position of looking at the library; they aren't taking farmer's market into account

Sentinel story about June 19th city council meeting was packed with people who want better options

Rick has done a ton of work regarding the issue

City council may have really heard

Climate Action Task Force - city manager said "wasn't in their scope" - doesn't seem to be true

Verbal support for working on this issue

A note that there are groups working on this - how can Sierra Club be most helpful to other groups working on this issue?

One technique we haven't tried recently - individual meetings with city council members
Gillian and Jack volunteer to collaborate about rewriting our old letter regarding the issue and updating

A comment that the issue involves many moving parts - housing replacing other parking spots, etc. We should work towards understanding these parts as we move forward. Campaign for Sustainable Transportation is working on this issue.

A request that the transportation committee and Campaign for Sustainable Transportation create an ask for how we can support

Executive Committee (Gillian)

Understanding and applying the Jemez Principles to our work...30 mins

Discussion

- Principle 1 - Inclusivity - we really haven't had representation from a diverse group of people here; really need to work on this issue. Very little representation from Watsonville and of people of color. Under 200 Sierra Club members in South County with access to email (at least with our current lists and tools). How else can we reach these people?
Texting?
- Note - Watsonville Wetlands - very well organized and potentially a good idea to connect with them and hear from them what their community needs (also speaks to principle 4 - work together in solidarity and mutuality)
- Principle 4 - also regards connecting to non-environmental organizations
- A question about what Sierra Club is doing on National level to connect with Latinos and others. Karen Maki notes that National has been working to support other groups.
- A note that our demographic is still mostly upper demographic white people
- Other groups in Watsonville - need to connect
- Beach Flats community gardens - a diverse group we are connected with
- Jessie Street Marsh - underrepresented community
- A note that our Indian/Asian groups are also not represented well and we should reach out to these groups
- Churches/temples may be a good place to reach people
- A note that providing childcare allows more people to show up (with snacks)
- A note that the last two Jemez principles are really about ourselves - being just with ourselves and a commitment to self-transformation
- A note that there during organization of trails with transit issue - there is distrust from the communities in Watsonville. We opposed a high school there and that is remembered. We may need to "pay our way in" to really work for and do the heavy lifting for reaching out; will be challenging and we will need to sacrifice our own convenience to help create convenience for South County
- Donations to organizations in south county may be a way to create some of this trust/etc
- Engaging/building on relationships we already have

- Watsonville adopted "Vision 0" well ahead of Santa Cruz - how did they do it and what can we learn?
- Agricultural chemicals in Watsonville - methyl bromide is chemical that has significant climate effects
- A note that an outreach coordinator should be bilingual and that should be in our job description
- A request to discuss two principles at a time during committee meetings; are there ways to incorporate principles in our committee work?
- A note that we do need to make sure to separate "low income" from "Latino" as we speak

A note that it would be great to have a meeting norms list during to access during meetings.

Beginning discussion on changing chapter affiliation from Ventana to Loma Prieta. No decision at this meeting. Brainstorming of questions to pose and issues....30 mins

- Comments in support of the possible change
- A concern that it would be a culture change for us
- A discussion of the history - we used to be part of Loma Prieta Chapter and why we shifted
- Santa Lucia is chapter south of Ventana
- An argument regarding economies of scale - an argument to join with Loma Prieta
- A reading of questions regarding the issue
- A note that while biologically we are connected to Monterey via the ocean; and also that biologically we are connected with Loma Prieta via the forests and mountains
- A note that the letters from Loma Prieta are very good and that is a reason to join forces with them
- A desire to learn more about the Loma Prieta chapter - do they have subgroups? How do they work? Maybe to have a few of us sit on one of their meetings
- How would this move affect South County? It does in some ways turn our heads towards the mountains
- A comment that answers to the questions posed may be positive however maybe the reality will be different; won't know unless we try
- A comment that there are other ways to encourage people to participate here
- At some point we need to vote if we want to pursue this; and then connect with Greg Casini to work
- An idea to have some people from Loma Prieta come visit us; and also to have some of us attend their meetings as well
- An idea to have info written out on a chart - advantages/disadvantages of Ventana/Loma Prieta
- A concern about how to communicate with Ventana
- An idea that we should have a communication with Ventana soon
- A question if phone attendance is allowed at excom meetings in Loma Prieta
- More comments that it is best to communicate with Ventana now

- If we don't move over and have communicated it may create ripples; so will need to communicate carefully
- Loma Prieta meetings - first Tuesday of the month

Adjourned at 8:46

Next Meeting: August 8th