

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, September 12, 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, Rick Longinotti, Mark Mesti-Miller, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic
Mary Odegaard, Jack Nelson, Anya

Online Votes

A vote to co-sponsor a candidates forum organized by the People's Democratic Club and give a fifty dollar donation to help with advertising passed on September 9

A vote to send a letter to city council regarding the Ocean Street Extension Project passed on September 10

Welcome & Introductions...5 mins

Short announcements... 5 mins

Next week Thursday Global Warming event

Grant we looked into is really for 501(c)3 organizations not 501(c)4

City council voted 4 - 2 to keep going forward with library/garage

We are co-sponsoring with People's Democratic club a Candidates forum on Monday

A woman interested in NAFTA may visit conservation committee to discuss issues

Approval of Minutes - August meeting....5 mins.

Rick moves to approve; Steve seconds; unanimous with one abstention due to absence

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

Solid savings

More donations from fundraiser letter; well in the green for that

Mostly caught up with Ventana

Nominations Committee (Rick)

ExCom Nominations process: next steps

Please get the word out and get candidates interested in running

They will need to get going in October to indicate interest

Rick will be stepping down; Mark, Gillian and Jane all have terms up; so four seats available

Executive Committee ...25 mins

Loma Prieta invitations

- Tuesday October 2nd, November 13th at 6:30 - can people send Gillian an email if they are interested
- Conservation Committee meetings are on same dates as our conservation committee meetings
- Bruce Rienzo (chair) and James (Chapter Director) may visit us
- We should make sure that we are fixing what we really want
 - Financial issues
 - A recommendation to contact the other groups under Loma Prieta
 - What exactly we are looking for

Clarifying the role of the Transportation & Conservation Committees

Discussion - how to facilitate issues that crossover both committees

Transportation chair would like the Transportation Committee to be consulted and included in any letters the ConsCom drafts on transportation-related matters including all rail trail items.

Comments that Transportation members are welcome to review EIR documents and make comments; then a full letter could be drafted with both committee's input

Group leaders shall not make a statement or take a position publicly that is contrary to a policy or position established by the Chapter ExCom, Board of Directors, the duly authorized chapter, group, committee or other Club entity, or the Club membership through referendum, nor shall Club leaders or staff members mention their Sierra Club affiliation if they, in their own names, make a statement or take a position contrary to established policy.

An invitation from conservation committee for transportation members to attend; most issues are discussed and voting rarely happens

Set a date for discussion of Rail & Trail project

Erica will send out a doodle (to excom only); weeknights and weekends; not Tuesdays;

invitation will be sent out to full excom, conservation and transportation committees

October fifth will see a draft of unified corridors study

Political Committee (Ron, Rachel and Gillian) 25 mins

Endorsements

Watsonville city council District 5- 2 candidates, Rebecca Garcia was the only one answered questionnaire - recommended to endorse her; had a member on the committee who knew the candidates

Ron moves to endorse Rebecca Garcia; Keresha seconds; passed unanimously

Watsonville city council, District 4 - two candidates submitted answers to questionnaire; not strong enough answers and committee does not recommend endorsing them.
Ron moves to not endorse any candidates; Rachel seconds; unanimous

Watsonville council District 7 - three candidates - only Steve Trujillo submitted questionnaire - committee recommends to endorse; member of committee has knowledge of him and recommended supporting him.
Rachel moves to endorse Steve Trujillo; Keresha seconds; unanimous

Board of Supervisors, District 4 - two candidates - Chose to endorse Greg Caput - committee recommends to endorse him
Rick motions to endorse Greg Caput; Jane seconds; unanimous

Measure H - Bond measure for affordable housing; is a property tax - 15% goes to homeless shelters - Recommendation to endorse
Rick moves to endorse; Keresha seconds; unanimous with one abstention

Measure M - rent control and just cause eviction - recommendation to endorse
A discussion about if anyone should recuse themselves - five out of nine have given money or name regarding this measure; all will vote and we will contact state regarding situation asking for advice
Jane moves to endorse; Rick seconds;
Rick, Gillian, Rachel, Mark, Jane vote in favor;
Erica, Keresha, Mark, Steve oppose. 5 -4 in favor
Out of those who have not endorsed publically
Gillian and Rachel vote in favor;
Keresha, Steve, Erica vote against
Out of those who have not endorsed publicly 3 -2 against

Santa Cruz City Council - recommended to endorse Drew Glover and Justin Commings
Gillian volunteers to write a paragraph about each to explain why we did or didn't endorse them; it will be shared with excom before sent out. Comments that it may be a good idea to not be specific in writing; a conversation may be better than in writing
Erica moves to endorse Drew Glover and Justing Commings; Gillian seconds; unanimous with three absences due to publicly endorsing other campaigns

Questions at candidates' forum - not discussed due to time

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

For approval: talk by Donna Meyers: "What Will be Lost If Opened for Drilling? -- Paddling the Canning River Through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge".
Erica motions to approve event; Rick seconds; unanimous

Valley Women's Club tabling and Open Streets tabling

November 17th from 1 - 3 pm and October 13th; for Open Streets a discussion by email to see if we can staff it (Best to have at least 4 - 5)

Rachel moves to approve Valley women's club; Rachel seconds; unanimous

Conservation Committee (Erica)...35 mins

Santa Cruz Ex Com and Bird Club Bird Walk - Date to be determined; Jane will send out doodle; for mid to late October

Ocean Street Extension Project - Letter approved; council meeting postponed to mid September

Bird Safety design standards - Response from staff says they have to balance competing interests; no input from elected officials

North Coast rail segment DEIR

- concerns about Red-Legged frog; plant species; riparian habitat destroyed
- A comment about how to make requests more specific (Rachel will try by Monday night)
- Transportation issues - input forthcoming - a goal of Monday night

Transportation Committee...none submitted

Adjourned 8:35

Next Meeting: October 10th, 2018