

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2018**

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Branciforte Small Schools

840 North Branciforte Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Called to Order 6:37

Attending: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Mark Mesti-Miller, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic
Jack Nelson, Edna Blanchard, Karsten Mueller

Online Votes

A motion to sponsor a candidates forum for the Soquel Creek Water District passed on October 13

Motion to send endorsement postcard out to members passed on October 18

Motion to send a letter regarding the Student Housing West revised DEIR passed on October 30

Motion to send letter to the Regional Transportation Commission regarding the Unified Corridor Investment Study did not pass on November 1

Motion to support the Valley Women's Club letter regarding the PG&E tree cutting passed on November 8

Welcome & Introductions...5 mins

Approval of minutes October meeting...5 mins.
Steve moves to approve; Mark seconds; unanimous

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

Positive in checking and savings

Payroll from 2017 finally accounted with Ventana

We get about \$400 each month as our allocation

Question - is our allocation proportional to our membership in our group or is it a percentage of the proportion that the chapter receives

Guest: Edna Blanchard from Pittwater Natural Heritage Association...10 mins.

An Australian group; a beautiful natural area that also faces challenges

Advocacy for flora/fauna

Interested in wildlife corridors - ex. Got five wildlife corridors when a new highway was built
Get grants to do things such as dune restoration
Educational work as well; a newsletter; bird watching events
Strong volunteer base for things such as replanting efforts - word of mouth
Table at the market
Have done a good job of creating a positive presence with a small group
Normally gets rain spread throughout the year; a little hotter than here; an ideal climate in many ways although climate is changing (this year no rain for several months which is unheard of)
Tree canopy and birds are amazing
Temperate
Rachel moves to write a letter of support for the organization; Jane seconds; unanimous
A comment that perhaps once a quarter or something we can table at the market to reach a wide audience

Nominations Committee (Rick)...update and timeline...10 mins

Candidates need to get statements to Rick by end of month
A discussion about how we reach out to people; a desire to reach out to a variety of ethnic groups; that we should also consider this in our projects as well
A comment that this need to be more fully discussed and we should allocate time for this discussion later

Executive Committee...10 mins

November Loma Prieta visit and next steps
Gillian, Steve and Jane attended Loma Prieta Chapter meeting
Currently they have three groups under their chapter
Had about 20 minutes to discuss at their meeting
They voted to pursue exploring this possibility
Their other groups do not get an allocation from national
Chapter gets it all as they have staff, an office, etc.
So we would need to negotiate if we get an allocation; how much oversight of our work would there be; how much support from staff
- Oversight would be as much as them approving of all of our work (as in every letter)
A suggestion that each committee meets with their group over at Loma Prieta to get a sense of how their committees work
A concern that the committees would need to work well together
An observation that their committees all seem to be under the conservation committee
A concern that things need to be worked out so that things are all not counter to positions higher in the hierarchy
A 50 minute drive without traffic (except last mile)
A representative would be expected to keep up on their issues and also to attend their meetings
A comment that it may be better for us to simply develop our own strength rather than try to rely on their chapter
A comment about creating a timeline

A comment that there is stuff to be learned - how to do things more effectively; also that there are economies of scale

An observation that we can also be good neighbors and go over to their meetings any time

A question about us assuming more responsibility for the whole Ventana chapter

A comment that the letters sent out are high caliber and that they connect more with state issues

A comment that their staff person was very effective

Political Committee (Ron)...10 mins

Post elections update and assessment

Currently they are about $\frac{2}{3}$ done with the vote counting

We endorsed Greg Caput - Supervisor 4th district - he seems to be in the lead

City council - Commings, Glover endorsed; Donna Myers is in first; Justin Commings second;

Greg Larson third; all votes are pretty close; there will be three candidates selected

Still thousands of votes to count

Rebecca Garcia - endorsed and likely to win

Steve Trujillo endorsed - District 7 - not likely to win

Measure H endorsed - not likely to win as needs $\frac{2}{3}$

A comment that we should have considered Scotts Valley - an oversight and that we should really try to also get people on council in Scotts Valley, Capitola, etc.

A comment that not all of our endorsements were recorded fully (not accessible to the Loma Prieta person who had access to all the Sierra Club endorsements)

A concern that our endorsed candidates do not inappropriately use our logo

A comment that if we create systems then it won't be quite so hard to endorse candidates

Transportation Committee (Jack)...30 mins

Sierra Club letter of support for Scenario B (letter attached)

Discussion of what position to take

A comment about the lack of environmental review for each Scenario

A concern that all scenarios include highway widening - a disagreement about this - scenario B would include bus on shoulder, etc.

A question about why we don't specify what we want without naming Scenario B

- Transportation committee had a strategic discussion about how that wouldn't be in their framework of Scenarios that were analyzed

A comment about making sure we are clear about what we do support

A "support if amended" - such as to remove auto capacity increasing projects from Scenario B; ramp metering on Highway 1 which would temporarily improve traffic flow - and may be a net result of increased vehicle miles traveled

A comment that all scenarios are really similar; doesn't really consider an option that doesn't include increasing auto capacity

November 20th is deadline for agenda packet input

Keresha motions that we state a preference for Scenario B with amendments and attend the RTC meeting tomorrow stating that we will have a forthcoming letter; seconded by Mark; motion passes 5 - 4

Sierra Club response letter to City's response letter on Segment 7 Phase 2 (city's response and Sierra Club original letter attached) - tabled discussion

Conservation Committee (Erica)...30 mins

PG&E tree issue - Valley Women's club has done amazing work; gotten Supervisor's attention; an idea to get a visual map of area logged; Jane will mention PG&E issue at meeting with Panetta; good op-ed written

NAFTA - meeting with Panetta tomorrow

UCSC housing - letter written

Forest update - letter written ready to be voted on

Adjourned at 8:38

Next Meeting: December 12th, 2018