

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes, May 8, 2019**

**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, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomeraz, Bruce Sawhill, Erica Stanojevic**

Mary Odegaard

**Online votes**

**Welcome! Introductions/Announcements...2 mins**

Watsonville banned glyphosate!

A good person to pursue contacts with:

- Sariat Martinez - Safe Ag Safe Schools - in Salinas who is fighting pesticide use

**Approval of Minutes... April meeting...2 min**

Steve moves to approve; Rachel seconds; unanimous with one abstention

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

Checking and savings positive

Allocation checks are coming regularly from Ventana!

Ventana chapter and Santa Cruz group finances are being audited by National

Trician has answered questions for us

March fundraising has been positive - 57 total contributions so far - sent out 350; most funds raised since 2012

If someone hasn't donated for 5 years, names are culled from list. We received an unsolicited donation from a lifetime member as well.

A note that this year we choose to use stamps on the return envelopes and maybe that was the difference

**Executive Committee (Gillian)...70 mins**

Update: c3 account for lawsuit contributions... 5 mins

Have reached out to chapter and are seeking their approval to set up an account for this use

Committee Charters: ConsCom; Events; Transportation; Political... 30 mins

A discussion that members should not be on the charter; that information can be listed elsewhere - possibly on the website - this was discussed

Conservation Committee Charter - discussion and some edits. Mike moved to approve; Ron seconds; unanimously approved

Outings and Events charter - Bruce moves to approve charter; Rachel seconds; unanimously approved

Political Committee Charter - A discussion about what to do with communicating with legislators. In the past the committee has been very active during election cycles and we have recently. A discussion about having a conservation committee liaison to communicate with the political committee about communicating with legislators.

- Mike moves to approve the political committee charter, Steve seconds; unanimous

A discussion about the transportation committee charter and a decision to table it until the transportation chair can be present.

Diversity Committee... 5 mins - Have not met yet and will get a date to meet.

Chapter Assembly - June 21st

Is anyone interested in going? Let Gillian know; Rachel might be interested

Renting B-40 Small Schools Library for ExCom meetings (Keresha)...10 mins

- An ask to rent the room for \$30 an hour
- A comment that it may be better to be in a fully public space that is staffed
- A comment that it is really nice to be in a larger room like this one, especially with all the extra chairs
- A concern that sometimes people have trouble finding this meeting space
- A comment that if we really want to include people from throughout the county we should be meeting further south, or at least rotate meeting locations
- A decision to have us all look into other potential meeting locations - library, community college meeting space, etc, Simpkins swim center
- Mike will be the lead on creating a list of spots, rough availability, cost, etc.

Retreat (Jane & Erica)... 10 mins

- At the top of a one lane road. If a timid driver, park at bottom and walk up. No cell service in that area.
- Bring warm clothes and layers
- Jane will send out an email containing articles; please read
- Bring walking shoes if you want to hike around!
- PG&E will be having a bird survey that day so go early if you want to see that

Reminder of by-laws restriction on Club leaders not speaking against a voted on position... 10 mins.

- Discussion
- May not represent oneself as a leader in the Club and take a position publicly that differs from a voted on Club position
- May have some conflict between our group rule and the national rules - may need to get that clarified and have our rules amended to be fully aligned
- Gillian will take lead on contacting state/national regarding this

### **Conservation Committee (Erica)...35 mins**

Updates

CA ConsCom meeting in SLO - three resolutions passed

- Wildfire mitigation passed - essentially asks PG&E to insulate wires rather than chop down trees

Bird Safe Design standards

- Listed as an achievement on city site
- Now put onto the website - additional requests have been not been added so need more work on that
- HR919 - Federal Bird Safe bill - asked Panetta to co-sponsor; will mean that all public buildings will need to adhere to bird safe building standards
- We should start copying Ron on all the political emails such as this one

County Heritage Tree Ordinance

- Several people spoke about extending the Heritage Tree Ordinance
- Decided to form a sub-committee to explore how other counties have dealt with this issue and do other research
- A concern that the ordinance may not be super strong as written and may need strengthening
- It seems that John Leopold would be supportive of a strong ordinance
  - It may be a good idea to meet with him separately anyway about this and other issues

Natural Bridges Migratory Bird Day tabling

- Jane will be tabling Saturday - to raise awareness regarding Bird Safe Design Standards
- Will need some money to do some printing
- Strongly feels we need to update the tabling materials
- Mike moves to authorize up to \$100 for this event; Gillian seconds; unanimous

Segment 7 Phase 2 appeal

- Discussion
- Appeal date June 11

- Erica moves that we send a letter to the city indicating our support of the appeal and ask the city to do a proper EIR; Steve seconds
  - That would mean that Rachel O'Malley and Gillian Greensite would be representing the Sierra Club in this matter
- Mike offers a friendly amendment that we start by stating that the environmental documentation is insufficient and that in the alternative, if the City Council were to approve the project we expect at least the following mitigations which we would list out - Erica does not accept as a friendly amendment

Motion fails 4 - 4;

Mike makes a motion that we send a letter to the city indicating our support of the appeal and ask for a proper EIR and state that if, in the alternative, the city council were to approve the project then there would be listed mitigations we would ask for; Steve seconds

- Motion fails 4 - 4

Mike re-moves to reconsider Erica's motion; Rachel seconds; all in favor - 5 - 3 vote approved

**Next Meeting: Wilder bluff walk, June 12th, 2019**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:51**