

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes, October 9th, 2019**

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Louden Nelson Community Center

301 Center St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Called to Order 6:38

**Attending: Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz,
Erica Stanojevic**

Mary Odegaard, Jerry Busch, Annrae Angel

Online votes

A motion to sign a letter in support of protecting Jurisac passed on September 30

A motion to approve an event "Namibia: A Vast Desert Environment Full of Life, Professor Barry Bowman" passed on September 13th

Welcome & Introductions...5 min

Announcements...5 min

Annara Angel - Running for judge, opening up thought about possibly us supporting her campaign

Tree planting - Wed. Oct. 16th, 12:30 - 2:30 at Bethany Curve - ***Erica will get out on Meetup, etc***

Sustainable Transportation Conference

Approval of Minutes

Ron moves approval; Gillian notes tree planting should say "city arborist is planning to plant 500 trees and wants volunteers"; Jane notes Bonny Doon spelling favor

With amendments, Mike seconds; unanimous

Treasurer's Report

Positive balance in accounts; a few more checks from March appeal have come in
Mike requests a copy of the appeal letter

Conservation Committee

College Lake

- Freshwater habitat that supports lots of biodiversity, especially bird

- Currently much water is pumped out for farming; seasonal wetlands support supports seed eating birds as well as raptors, golden eagles, bird hawks, owls, etc.
- Fresh water wetland; extra important in age of sea level rise
- Will raise existing weir by about 1 foot
- Lower area will only be exposed from beginning of Sept. to when rains start up again
- It fills up quickly
- A belief that the project could be managed in a way that would reduce impacts while still getting same water yield
 - By drawing down earlier
- Will build pipeline to treatment plant; use for blend water; then farmers will purchase
- Is demand for blend water in March/April, earlier in season
- FEIR scheduled for approval on Oct. 16th
- Have agreed to have an Adoptive Management Plan
 - Required by their Program EIR
 - Will be collecting baseline data
- Board of Pajaro Valley Water Agency
 - Belief that board members are environmentalists; they don't want to destroy wetlands
 - Could be fruitful to meet with Board members
 - A need for them to establish a technical advisory committee
 - A need to develop a stakeholder committee
 - They have not committed to doing a technical advisory committee
- Engineers for projects literally advertise on their website that they "minimize mitigations"
- Well over 200 species recorded there
 - High counts - between wetlands - College Lake was #2 for dabbling ducks
- Wetland has three most important waterfowl food plants in lots of quadrants
- Mike motions to write a letter referring to our previous demands, reference the vibrancy of the wetlands, and asking to ensure the adoptive management plan has funding, technical advisory committee, stakeholder committee, etc. to minimize effects; Gillian seconds;
 - Erica notes that she would prefer to have the project not happen; Jerry feels that it is unlikely that we would halt the process and so is looking to minimize effects
 - Passes with four votes and one opposition

Jerry will get info regarding who to send letter to

Letter written by Sunday, by Monday Gillian gets out to committee

Updates: Streambed Alteration: On paper, says city will mark natives; haven't actually done a decent job of it

PG&E wildfire: Clear there are dangers with shut offs - cell towers not working, traffic lights, water department concerned as the water systems do require electricity; food concerns; medical concerns

- Bankruptcy Judge and Newsom - those are people to comment to regarding issue

Pure Water Soquel - Conservation committee recommends to remain neutral regarding Pure Water Soquel

- Ron moves that we move to stay neutral regarding the Pure Water Soquel Project; Erica seconds; unanimous

Executive Committee

Update on c3 funds - misinformation about funds available in this category; no extra funds available from chapter

Downtown Forward: Had a piece basically using Sierra Club policy saying that it would support the library plan

- In past we wrote letter saying do not support garage
- Gillian will write letter saying that Sierra Club does not support garage
- Mike moves that Club prepare a letter that clarifies our position about the garage and attaches previous letter and states how it is consistent with National Policy; Ron seconds; unanimous

Sentinel projects - suggests Sierra Club supports corridors plan wholeheartedly; we want to have significant affordable housing as without it it actually increases vehicle miles traveled

- Erica motions that Gillian drafts a letter regarding corridors plan in response to Sentinel article; Gillian seconds; discussion
 - Mike is concerned we may not have developed a full position on it
 - Mike would prefer a working group
 - Gillian withdraws seconds of motion

Mike may make working group within transportation committee

Transportation Committee

Mike worked on charter and incorporated input from people

- Mike moves to approve the charter; Ron seconds; one in favor; four against
- A request that biological concerns are specified as environmental concerns that the committee will take into account

Mike contacted members of committee to check on interest

- Membership being worked on and will include: Keresha Durham, Bruce Sawhill, Rick Longinotti, Jukka Naukkari, Sally Arnold, Steve Bakaley, Gillian Greensite, Rachel O'Malley, Mike Guth, Jack Nelson
- Mary Odegaard and Debbie Bulger want to be kept apprised however do not want to be full committee members
- A note that Mike would need to check with the other people who were previously on transportation committee membership

- Gillian moves to ratify these members; unanimous

Political Committee

Political Committee voted to oppose the recall of the two council members endorsed by Sierra Club: Drew Glover and Christopher Krohn

- Would go through Ventana and then state
- Erica moves that we go on record to oppose the recall; Mike seconds; unanimous

Meeting Adjourned: 8:39

Next meeting Wednesday, Nov. 13th, 2019