

Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee

Meeting Minutes, January 8th, 2020

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Louden Nelson Community Center

301 Center St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Called to Order 6:36

Attending: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Gillian Greensite, Mike Guth, Jane Mio, Rachel O'Malley, Ron Pomerantz, Bruce Sawhill, Erica Stanojevic
Mary Odegaard, Micah Posner

Online votes

Welcome & Introductions

Checking In

Announcements

Tomorrow night - 5pm Jan. 9th - Code of Conduct webinar - info sent in a link, forwarded from Bay Chapter

Mexico - some heritage sites - most cities have closed downtowns to cars as there is too much smog, covering historical areas; lots of traffic and packaging and also a well-used bus system due to buses passing every few minutes. Some buses even have mariachi musicians.

Ban Fracking - Center for Biological Diversity is suing feds about opening federal lands to fracking; Erica will draft letter asking county supervisors (and potentially city) to have county join lawsuit

Vegetation removal in Australia - apparently they follow CA guidelines and that has made the fires worse

San Lorenzo River Symposium - Sat. February 29th - support and Rachel, Gillian and Jane say they are available for tabling; no fee involved
Erica moves that we support the event and table; seconded by Rachel; unanimous

The parking garage/library issue - a note that there is a move by the wider committee to put the issue to the ballot

Events Committee

Event to be ratified: Dr. Erin Hagen of Island Conservation will be speaking at our September 17th program.

- They focus on the world's most vulnerable island ecosystems by removing the leading threat to native plants and animals—invasive species. Islands are biodiversity hotspots as well as epicenters of extinction.
- Island Conservation is one of the world's most effective conservation organizations, having protected 487 species on 64 islands to date
- <https://www.islandconservation.org/>

Mike moves to approve; Ron seconds; unanimous

John Howerton gives a presentation next week Thursday Jan 16th - Vietnam travels

Namibia: A Vast Desert Full of Life with Prof. Barry Bowman is March 19th

Bruce makes a motion to approve a thank you gift of \$50 gift card for a volunteer; Steve seconds; unanimous

Approval of Minutes

Mike will amend the minutes reflecting that a motion was approved

Mike moves to approve the minutes as amended; Steve seconds; unanimous with an abstention due to absence (Erica)

Mike moves to reaffirm the motion that Rachel left the room for the October discussion; Steve seconds; unanimous save Erica (abstention)

Treasurer's Report

Up to date on checks from Ventana

Checking and savings at positive balances

Election Committee

Ballots due January 12th; will be mailed to us on the 13th we believe; counting may take place the 21st - 24th

Candidate or a representative for the candidates may attend to observe the counting; Jane would like to attend; Mary will observe for Micah

Conservation Committee

Estuary Project/ Adopt a Park update - City of Santa Cruz Parks and Rec department wants Sierra Club and Valley Women's Club to sign on to Adopt a Park program; relates to the ongoing estuary project that Jane has been working on for the past 3 years (initiated by Valley Women's Club)

- Jane worked to get a specific Adopt A Park contract and met with Mike Godsy from City Parks and Rec
- Benefits - site would get a certain amount of money assigned as well as access to supplies and potentially grants
- Confusion about whether Coastal Watershed Committee has dibs on full San Lorenzo River; a concern that we and Valley Women's Club would potentially be "under" them; according to the discussion the CWC would only have priority when it comes to events, not the restoration work itself; this will be written into the contract
- AmeriCorps and Downtown Street Team members will work together for six weeks - where the Downtown Streets Team people will work once a week on river restoration project

Bird Safe Design update - We have sent declaration to chapter; chapter supported it; Arthur Feinstein (Chair of CA Conservation Committee) has been sent the info. From there it may be amended and hopefully will go to the full CA Conservation Committee; will need to be presented and argued for. If accepted will be our CA stance regarding Bird Safe Design

- Feedback so far from Arthur Feinstein is positive

Juristac update - Campaign is moving along; Mark Stone and local supervisors signing on to statement of opposition

Transportation Committee

Transportation committee approved a letter for Rick to prepare regarding the downtown parking issue and the consultants who the city hired regarding it. The consultants never had a meeting with community to present their study as they said they would in their contract. The letter asks city to host such a meeting so that the public can be informed.

Erica votes to approve the letter with Mike's editing; Ron seconds;

A request that Mike double checks the accuracy of the letter as there is an understanding that some parts of the study have been released, not the final study though - double check this Letter should cc the Public Works - Transportation Commission as well

A request that the letter also be sent to the transportation committee again; if nothing substantial is added then will send the letter, otherwise will send back to excom again
Next transportation meeting is 4th Monday of the month

Executive Committee

Castle Rock: legal issues (closed session)

By-laws reminders

Keresha forwarded an email that contained information which was not accurate about Jane and Erica. It is requested that Keresha corrects the misinformation as soon as possible.

Rachel moves to request that Keresha correct the misinformation and remove the incorrect information that she has emailed out and put onto facebook about Jane and Erica; Mike seconds; unanimous except one abstention by Keresha

Political Committee

Rachel recuses herself and leaves the room for the following discussion

Chapter approved our decision to approve the recall; state will not consider the approval of the request until they get a specific document;

Mike moves to amend this document to specifically say that it is for the group rather than just the chapter; Gillian seconds; unanimous

Adjourned at 9:03

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 12th, 2020