

Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club Transportation Committee

February 24, 2020 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Minutes submitted by Keresha Durham

Attendance: 7 Members and 1 Visitor: Mike Guth, Sally Arnold, Rick Longinotti, Steve Bakaley, Robert Morgan, Micah Posner, and Keresha Durham Visitor: Matt Farrell

Approval of January minutes: Moved and seconded. 6 approved. 1 abstention due to not reading minutes yet.

Additions/Comments:

Keresha was asked to take minutes and she asked that this job rotate for equity.

There was a request to create an Energy Committee that would focus on the Climate Emergency. This can be considered by the Conservation or Executive Committees.

Review of final Alternatives Analysis letter (Guth) Letter was completed and emailed to members and sent in by the deadline.

SC City Parking Garage (Posner & Longinotti)

There were presentations and a discussion of opposing the building of parking garages, especially the downtown Santa Cruz library-garage plan.

Our local club has sent letters of opposition to the library parking garage plan in 2016, 2018 and gave a presentation to the Santa Cruz City Council Subcommittee in 2019.

Points from discussion:

This library parking garage would be one of the largest city, public work's projects.

We cannot reduce Climate Changing carbon without reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and connected CO2 emissions.

Parking is one of the biggest ways that cars/driving are subsidized. Land is very expensive and parking permits are too cheap, about \$1 per day for downtown.

The Nelson Neigard study began in 2016 and it is a great tool box of how to deal with parking. Why has the City not considered their findings?

Parking is a good business for the city; there's an incentive to build a garage since parking fees can help pay off the cost for this new structure.

There is a need for affordable housing over parking.

What did the City sub-committee report after hearing all the presentations?

A letter was read by Mark Mesiti-Miller and considered. Club protocols on ballot initiative support presented.

Motion: To educate our members and the public of the harmful environmental effects of building parking garages and get input from members about gathering signatures for a ballot initiative? Motion passed unanimously

Discussion regarding tracking jurisdictions (Guth) Need to have point persons to review 6 agendas for the County Board of Supervisors, Regional Transportation Commission, Cities of Watsonville, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. We will divide these up at another meeting.

Discuss meeting times in light of City Public Works meeting conflict, One person thought we should meet on another night in order for members to attend the City Public Works. One person thought it was important to attend public works meetings. Most people thought Monday nights are fine except when there are too many meetings on the same week. A suggestion: send a doodle or Survey Monkey to survey all members about best meeting days of the week.

Discussion of cooperative approach intra-Club (Guth & Longinotti) It was decided that this was not necessary since communication is cooperative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm