

Conservation Committee Meeting Notes 2/26/2020

Present: Steve Bakaley, Keresha Durham, Steve McGuirk

Although there were only three of us, we went through Steve Leonard's Agenda

Item 4 – “Move the ConsCom meeting to third Wednesday of the month.” Since none of the three of us initiated that issue we weren't sure what was behind it. The consensus among the three of us was that we liked it where it has been: 4th Wednesday of the month. However, other days/times that would work for the three of us are: Third Mondays from 4:30-6:30 and third Wednesdays 6:30-8:30. Consensus was once Steve L has finalized the membership of the committee, that he conduct a doodle poll to find out what dates/times work best for the committee as a whole.

Item 5 – “Review the status of the Castle Rock State Park proposed CIU (change in use)”. The consensus of the three of us was that rather than send a follow-on letter to California State Parks requesting the park limit trail access to the existing legal users, we request that the Group Excomm Chair follow up with CA State Parks to illicit a response to our January 22, 2020 letter. (see our Position Letters page for the contents of that letter)

Item 6 – “Review proposal to send a letter to Santa Cruz City Council requesting a resolution to ban leaf blowers.” Keresha agreed to contact Ken Foster to find out if he is still involved with the leaf blower issue and to determine what, if any, is his relationship with CHASE (SC Coalition for a Healthy and Safe Environment).

Item 7 – “UCSC Long Range Development Plan” – Concerns discussed were impacts on availability of water and impacts on already bad traffic on the west side. Steve Mc agreed to attend the information/input meetings and report back.

Item 8 – “Covering Government Agenda Lists” – Transportation Committee is considering dividing up major authority lists among Transportation Committee members to scan for and report items of interest. Steve Mc volunteered to get on distribution for all 7(?) authority agenda lists and parcel them out to the appropriate Standing Committees. Steve Mc agreed to reach out to Mike Guth to coordinate rather than duplicate efforts.

Item 9 – List of issues that have been addressed at one time or another by the Conservation Committee seeking volunteers interested in taking the lead on any of them. [Steve Mc volunteered to take ownership of](#)

[b. The Cement Plant lobbying with Mark Stone’s Office](#)

[h. Timber Harvest reviews \(Steve Mc to reach out to Jukka Naukkarinen for turnover.](#)

[i. Cotoni-Coast Dairies Management Plan](#)

Item c. “Castle Rock State park modifications for mountain biking” [Steve B has hiked large portions of the Skyline-to-Sea and Toll Road trails and has committed to hiking more of those two trails. Reported that Skyline-to Sea trail appears to be more widely used, especially by trail runners and shows no real evidence of illegal mountain biking. The Toll Road trail has much softer sandy soil and has widespread mountain bike tire tracks and rutting. Opening the toll road trail to mountain bikes would require considerable work to make the trail surface more dense and rut-proof and make the lines of sight safe for multi-use.](#)

[We prefer to refer item j “EIR review and commenting: Rail Trail, Highway 1, Downtown development, and UCSC development” to the Transportation Committee. Steve Mc has volunteered to assist Transportation Committee in reading through EIRs and similar documents.](#)

Item 10 “Sierra Club California Action” [We assumed this item was informational to encourage us to contact representatives. No action taken.](#)