

Sierra Club Santa Cruz County Group
Special Meeting
September 29, 2020

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Present:

Micah Posner

Steve McGuirk

Steve Bakaley

Bruce Sawhill

Mike Guth

Keresha Durham

(Bob Morgan is not present)

* Steve B. asks Micah who the Chapter' Compliance Officer is (still Neal A.). Expresses concern that if we don't have one, we can't do anything further politically. Micah responds that Rita (?) has been filling that role. Steve B. also notes that he has sent an email out with a link to Political Compliance and encourages everyone to watch it. He clarifies how to get to our Endorsement Page.

* (10:02) Mike describes rationale and email procedures for Special Meeting.

2. Felix Street Project: Motion on a 6-1 vote by ConsCom to send a letter to the City of Santa Cruz opposing spot rezoning of the Felix Street Project.

(11:45) Mike begins by clarifying past actions and that the agenda item will come up before the City Council on 10/13. Emphasizes that our position is against 'spot rezoning' and not specifically the project itself. ConsCom reviewed and approved a letter that dealt specifically with the zoning, and not the project, issue.

(17:45) Keresha expresses concerns that many Cypress Point residents didn't even know about the proposed project, and explains issues before the City at the 10/13 meeting. She expresses specific concerns about the nature of 'spot rezoning' and effects on Laurel Creek and Neary Lagoon.

(22:25) Micah explains what is happening with the Project at City level, and his contrasting feelings about 'infill' versus 'spot rezoning', and questions whether the Club should be involved with this project or not.

(26:00) Continued dialogue and expressed opinions by members. Steve B. asks if everyone has read Mike's letter and everyone says 'yes'.

(34:40) Mike makes a motion to approve the letter as written. Bruce seconds the motion. Keresha responds to Micah's comment about people not driving if they are able to walk. **The vote is taken and is approved 5-1.**

Mike adds that the letter is signed by him, solely, because of Micah is opposed to it, and Keresha is already on the public record as a neighbor who is opposed to the project. Micah asks Mike if he will present the letter to the City and Mike explains why that makes sense, as Keresha is already on the City's record, as a neighbor, opposing the project. Keresha expresses her disagreement, as she has already put so much work into the letter. Steve MC and Bruce both agree that Mike should present the Club's position and Keresha the neighborhood's. Keresha disagrees, saying that she is 'stunned' by this proposal, and that she is not a 'neighborhood leader'. She further expresses concern that the underlying message is that the Club is 'white and male'.

Micah makes the motion that Mike represent the Sierra Club on this issue. Steve MC seconds. Everyone expresses opinions one last time. **Motion approved 5-1.**

3. City of Santa Cruz Proposed Zoning Changes to allow Building on Steep Slopes: Motion on a unanimous vote by ConsCom to approve a letter by Mike regarding building on steep slopes. Mike clarifies and Micah suggests we push further discussion to a later date.
4. Wharf Master Plan: Motion on a 6-0-1 vote by ConsCom to approve a letter re: the Wharf Master Plan. Mike clarifies progress. It is agreed that this issue will be pushed ahead for further discussion.
5. Riverfront Development Project: Keresha has left the meeting, so Micah explains concerns about height, and the fact that the existing bicycle path would be rerouted around the project. Micah proposes that he and Mike write a related letter to the City. Mike makes the motion that a letter of concern be written, Steve B. seconds the motion. Approved unanimously.
5. Proposal (Micah and Bob) to send out Sierra Club endorsement mailers to approximately 13,000 County voters. Proposed cost not to exceed \$100.00. Bob, in further research, finds that this can't be done. Micah suggest sending emails. Steve B. clarifies that only Sierra Club members can receive endorsements, but not non-members.
6. Closing statements and Adjournment