

**Sierra Club Santa Cruz Group Executive Committee  
Meeting Minutes, March 8th, 2017  
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Louden Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA**

**Called to Order 6:30**

**Attending: Gillian Greensite, Rick Longinotti, Greg McPheeters, Jane Mio, Jack Nelson, Ron Pomerantz, Erica Stanojevic, Alex Yasbek**

Celia Scott, Peter Scott, Morgan Eguia, Mary Odegaard, Faisal Sean Fazilat, Matt De Young, John Leckrone, Bob Strayer and Lynda Marin

**Online Votes**

A motion to send a letter requesting extension of the EIR period for the Felton Meadows Project passed on February 12

A motion to send a letter to the city council in support of a bike share program passed on February 12

A motion to approve of the January minutes passed on February 14th

A motion to send a letter to the city council regarding the active transportation plan passed on February 26th

A motion to send a letter to the city council regarding the Monterey Bay Community Power passed on February 26th

**Welcome – Member comments**

**Approval of Minutes**

February Minutes - In events/outreach - motion by Gillian to approve events - need to specify that it was the Open Streets event and Beach Bonfire event

Ron moves to approve the minutes with the requested change; Rick seconds; unanimous except for abstention due to absence

**Treasurer's Report (Mary)**

Still waiting for bills from Ventana for outreach position; also waiting for our allocation. Did get off checks to the water protections.

Still have a good amount in our savings.

**Guest – Faisal Sean Fazilat, Divest Campaign (Erica) (15 minutes)**

Trying to get Santa Cruz to divest from the pipelines and big banks. We have accounts with banks like Wells Fargo. It may be a challenge to figure out where to put the money because the local credit unions may not have the capacity to do it currently. May take a year. Working on getting a resolution similar to Seattle's right now so that we can begin the divestment process.

Ron suggests checking with National; Mary suggests taking the issue to conservation committee.

Erica will check what the national policy is.

**Guest – Matt De Young, John Leckrone, Mountain Bikers Of Santa Cruz, City Parks Master Plan (Greg) (15 minutes)**

Presentation regarding their organization - work to turn riders into stewards; have many volunteers that work on trail projects; creating trail etiquette signage, etc. One of the largest outdoor enthusiast groups. Manufacturers employ over 1,000 people locally. Group says that there is an imbalance and not enough local trails; and says that this leads to illegal trail use and trail conflict. Group wants increased mountain bike access and have bike specific trails to minimize user conflicts.

Group does work with ecologists in order to figure out where trails should be - documents would be available by groups that do the work (they do not do the studies themselves). Does not have follow up studies to see what the environmental consequences are after a trail is built. Group claims that it would be able to help close illegal trails if able to open trails more legally.

Gillian notes that there is a lot of erosion on many local trails which she has observed only since mountain biking has become more popular. Gillian advocates that there does need to be an acknowledgement of the problems that biking creates. She notes a city survey which has the top trail use as hiking and only 9% as biking.

Matt notes that at UCSC the administration did not show up to a community meeting regarding the issue and so it is hard to address the issue when important stakeholders are not involved.

Mary is concerned about night riding and its impact on wildlife and hopes that it is discouraged.

John notes that there is a need to have some policing of the mountain bikers.

**Guest – Bob Strayer and Lynda Marin, Citizens Climate Lobby, (Alex) (10 minutes)**

The group is working on a carbon fee and revenue neutral dividend federally. A fee is assessed on carbon where fossil fuels come into the economy and households receive all the revenue - so it is a progressive fee. Industry knows it will be paying more each year which motivates the industry to transition to sustainable sources of energy and levels the playing field for sustainable energy.

Also propose a border adjustment so that American businesses are not disadvantaged. They are working to get the legislative branch to propose this. Right now there are 26 members of the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus working together because consequences of climate change are real and happening in districts. Locally the Citizens Climate Lobby is working to pressure Jimmy Panetta to join this climate solutions caucus in the house.

Wants local groups to endorse carbon fee and dividend to reach out to Jimmy Panetta so he joins caucus and take leadership on this issue. Would like if members of the Sierra Club could attend meetings with legislators. Also would like us to endorse the CCL's proposed Carbon Fee and Revenue Neutral Dividend.

Some issues are getting democrats to agree to a revenue neutral model; however this is the only way republicans would agree. Also issues include agreeing on the details - like when does the carbon tax begin (\$15/ton Co2 or \$40/ton CO2).

Carbon fee and dividend can stack alongside with cap and trade.

Alex will work on communicating with National regarding this.

### **Executive Committee (Greg)**

**March Appeal** – Annual Appeal Letter, Approve Letter to send in March (Greg)

Discussion about how to best approach tone in the letter and also other feedback

A suggestion to do some sort of member survey - possibly for new members and possibly for our whole membership

### **Executive Committee Retreat (Erica and Jane)**

Discussion of retreat

Peter Scott mentions that we've lost the Ventana and mentions that it may be a good idea to consider replacing it with something

Also Peter mentions that the outings need more attention - used to even put stuff in the Good Times equivalents

Possibly late May/early June

### **Review Executive Committee Process on Voting**

Concern about the process - if the committee creates a vote then that vote should stand; concern that votes should not counteract previous votes

Concern about when things are rushed that these issues come up

Note that we basically missed a step to rescind previous vote

### **Conservation Committee (Gillian)**

- **Monterey Bay Community Power** (Ron) - 17 of 19 jurisdictions are on board; hopefully the issues that we raised will be incorporated in the future

- **City Parks Master Plan** - Again a note that hiking and walking get the highest use; basic document for Pogonip was adopted in 1998 - Final Master Plan; was a compromise with mountain bikers at that point - the UCon trail - and the creation of this trail was supposed have the mountain bikers close the illegal trails then however this didn't happen. One of the trails proposed is in land that has a lot of erosion.

Some advocate that when there is a master plan already - like for Pogonip - that that should be taken out separately and not included in the city parks master plan; Jessie Street Marsh; Neary Lagoon; others listed in City General Plan - which also lists that only passive recreation is allowed in natural parks such as these

So far master plan for Pogonip hasn't been implemented - not even all the mitigation measures have been implemented.

Environmental concerns are not included in the current master plan document

- Beginning states how we have a beautiful place however then drops it

April 10, May 1st, June 5th - more meetings about City Parks master plan

Gillian proposes that she and whoever else would like to work on drafting a position on the plan and bring it to the committee for consideration

Gillian motions that we write a letter to Maura Garcia, director of Parks, expressing that the Sierra Club be kept informed about the process and we would like to know when the environmental review will be conducted. Jack friendly amends that we include that we are having some concerns about environmental issues being addressed.

Ron seconds; unanimous

Possibly including how this will be presented at the April 10 meeting

Stakeholder interviews did not include environmental groups - mountain bikers were included

- **Rodenticide use in Santa Cruz** (Tai Moses)

- **Save Our Shores:** Request for our participation in campaign to extend the county's Food Packaging

Gillian moves that we participate in the campaign; Alex seconds; unanimous  
Ordinance to other cities in county.

- Next Meeting: March 22 , 6:30-8:30, Louden Nelson

**Transportation Committee (Jack)**

Rick asks for help by getting business owners to get against the parking structure; asks for who we know that owns a business downtown; a few names are produced

Campaign for Sensible Transportation has workshops coming up - Tools for Housing and Transportation Justice - April 1 and April 8

- Next Meeting – Wed May 17, 7 pm – location TBD

Sierra Club is invited by Santa Cruz Indivisible to table at “Resistance Open House” event at Santa Cruz Civic, March 18, 2 - 5 pm

**Adjourned 8:52**