

CRAHTAC

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

Monday, March 12, 2018 3:00 pm. South County Operations Yard Conference Room
4568 Calle Real Building E, Santa Barbara CA

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Shiela Snow	Jack Bish	Mike Hecker		
Art Najera	Otis Calef			
Kevin Snow				
Kalon Kelley				

Members Absent

David Hosking, Curt Cragg, Kristi Hundt, Archie Mitchell, Ruth Schuyler, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas

Members Excused

Dan Gira, Kalon Kelley, Ray Ford

Staff Advisors and Visitors

Jeff Lindgren – Operations Manager
John Menzies – Aquatics Supervisor

Meeting was called to order by Chair Art Najera at 3:05

Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes from the May 2018 meeting.

Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

Trail Council Announcements:

- Eastern Goleta Community Development Plan
 - Study on trails did not have funding. This slipped through the cracks.
 - Funding needs to be requested. Trails council will do this.
 - This should be followed up on. It is mostly likely covered in 329 Slippery Rock/Fremont Trail.
- Joan Hartman is working hard on trails and recreation.
 - She wants a park steering committee for North County with a focus on North County issues instead of county wide.
 - There is a meeting on 12/7 at the County building in town.
- SBCAG grant for \$80,000 to look at a Gaviota – Guadalupe interim Coastal trail route.
 - It will most likely have to follow roads, but can suggest better routes.
 - This project will need volunteers for a steering committee.

US Forest Service Update

None

County Update

There has been some reorganization in Country Parks. There has been work on Franklin and Baron development. There has been more trail work lately with Jeff mostly on oversight and Jon on hand. There has been 7 or more miles of trail rehab in Montecito. Claims have been filed to FEMA, but there is no money yet. MTF has some money for kiosks.

ACTION ITEMS

258: Coastal Trail/Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

The Dangerman Nature Preserve (South of Jalama) is being organized. There is a three year window to make a plan. The preserve is intended mostly for environmental research. There is currently nothing about trials in the project. The Gaviota Coastal Conservancy mentioned that they would like us to meet with them and take point on advising on trail issues.

Kalon made a motion to add an action item #358 Dangerman Nature Preserve. Mike seconded. Approved.

Kalon also made a motion to make a sub group, composed of Kalon and Otis, to contact the preserve to make initial contact. Mike seconded. Approved.

280: Cachuma Equestrian Trail

The trail is gaining popularity. There are four more miles of trail in the Cachuma area connecting campgrounds. The system does not quite connect to the Equestrian Trail and Live Oak Camp.

305: Guadalupe Beach / Nipomo Dune

No updates.

319: Orcutt Trails Commission Update

Ray Ford has made three plus miles of trail funded by County Parks.

323: Arroyo Burro / San Antonio / Jesusitas Trails

No updates.

326: Franklin Trail

SCE is doing work that will close the top portion of the trail above mile 3.5 for the rest of the month with temporary closures below that level.

329: Slippery Rock / Fremont Trail

No updates.

333: Baron Ranch Trail

Public works is holding up the work on finishing the trail infrastructure at the lower section over the Arroyo Hondo. Public works would not allow access. Trail workers had to commute through Gaviota. Contracts for the bridge are out and it will hopefully be built by March. The upper portion of the trail is complete.

336: Ocean Beach / Surf Station Beach Access

No updates.

350: More Mesa Trails

There is natural gas work on county land that is blocking some access points into the area.

353: 8501 Hollister – Coastal Trail

The project is moving forward and they are trying to pull the permits. Landowner McCaw is very favorable to recreation uses.

354: Front Country Trails

No updates.

355: Bill Wallace Trail

Otis and Mark from the Trails Council are meeting with State Parks tomorrow. Denita, the local State Parks superintendent, has been great for trails. There is new land for this trail. However, there is no State Parks plan, so the plan can't move forward. The Superintendent is trying to put through a trail and road only plan. It is more limited, but easier to get through. She is trying to do this before she retires.

356 Santa Ynez Valley Trails

They are looking at a Class 1 bike path extension in Solvang and have already applied for grants. This will be north of 246. A connection from this path to Alamo Pintado Rd. where there is a Class 2 bike path. A \$250,000 bike master plan study is being conducted to finish by July 2019. There is a stakeholder meeting occurring with public input. Can any historic easements be identified? Are any of these marked on maps? For example, abandoned railroads with easements.

357: Thomas Fire/Debris Flow Trail Recovery

There is work starting and everyone is working well together.

New Business

Mike made a motion to open a new action item as #359 Santa Maria Levee Trail. Seconded by Otis. Approved.

Kalon sent an email out to the group, attached to the end of the minutes. The group agreed with the points in his email.

Announcements

New officer elections were conducted.

Chair – Mike Hecker (Art, seconded by Sheila – Approved)

Vice Chair – Otis Caleb (Jack, seconded by Mike – Approved)

Secretary – Jack Bish (Mike, seconded by Sheila – Approved)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish

Art and Committee Members-

I am sorry I will miss Monday's meeting on the 19th, but I will be up in Berkeley at Grandparent's Day for two grandsons.

At any rate, I have a couple of things I'd like to suggest as agenda items.

1. In looking over the LUC for the Gaviota Coast (as amended by the Coastal Commission), I see that Action Rec-7 Trail and Access Completion reads in its entirety as follows:
Action REC-7: California Coastal Trail. The County shall work with the County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee to strive to complete public access improvements including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Acquire near shore bluff top easements for the California Coastal Trail from the Bacara Hotel to El Capitan State Beach, and develop and open the California Coastal Trail throughout this reach.
 2. Work with California State Parks and the California Coastal Commission to reopen the closed segment of the existing Class 1 bikeway that links El Capitan and Refugio State Beaches.
 3. Acquire and develop at least two coastal access points along the east end of the Plan Area at Dos Pueblos Ranch, Edwards Point, Santa Barbara Ranch, Makar/Tomate Canyon West, or Paradiso del Mare.
 4. Work with California State Parks to develop and open a three-mile-long bluff top segment of the California Coastal Trail, south of U.S. Highway 101, from Gaviota State Park east to the Gaviota Marine Terminal.
 5. Develop at least one major coastal access point and associated public improvements along the west end of the coast at Arroyo Hondo or Gaviota Marine Terminal.
 6. Acquire easements for and develop at least two foothill trails that link coastal areas to public lands in the Los Padres National Forest on the east and west ends of the Plan Area.
 7. Work with Caltrans, the Union Pacific Railroad and interested organizations to complete a Transportation Corridor Plan to address public access issues and ensures that all future improvements to these facilities accommodate and foster public coastal access.
 8. Acquire easements for the California Coastal Trail from the eastern end of Hollister Ranch to Jalama Beach County Park.

I find this quite intriguing, particularly as it relates to our committee. It's quite a work plan, and it envisions CRAHTAC and the County working together to accomplish it. I would suggest having some conversation about this and how CRAHTAC chooses to respond. On the one hand, we could consider ourselves as simply advisory to the BOS, County Parks, Public Works, ..., but I would like to think that we could take more initiative. Maybe start with an open public meeting with the appropriate county agencies and interested Federal or private organizations (e.g., US Forest Service, Gaviota Coastal Conservancy, Trails Council) and go over these 8 actions and prioritize them and get a work plan developed. A couple of years ago we had an organized "Gaviota Coast" CRAHTAC subcommittee (included Dan Gira, Ray Ford, myself and maybe Otis Calef(?)) and perhaps one or two others, but when some immediate development proposals became inactive so did this subcommittee. Perhaps this subcommittee could be reformed to work on REC-7?

2. The second suggested agenda item (not unrelated to the above) is to become more active in our principal goal to advise the BOS on trails issues within the County. While we periodically have taken positions and written or spoken at board meetings, it has been a bit hit and miss. What about putting on our agenda the preparation and delivery to the County (BOS, Planning Department) two reports a year updating trails status when there is some activity or decision-making anticipated. In short, try to elevate the County's interest and concern for trails by keeping the issues before them. I think the County would be happy to make this part of their agenda twice a year. The way I see this working would be at one of our meetings we identify the trails issues that we think should be reported on, and ask one or more different committee members to develop succinct draft statements on an issue. At our next meeting we review what has been prepared and refine it as needed, and then deliver the result to the county.

Have a good meeting next Monday.

Kalon