

# CRAHTAC

## County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

Monday, January 13, 2020 3:00 pm. Board of Supervisors Conference Room  
105 E. Anacapa St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### Committee Members Present

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Kalon Kelley	Jack Bish	Mike Hecker		
Art Najera	Ray Ford	Faith Deeter		
Kevin Snow	Otis Calef	Cary Losson		

#### Members Absent

Ruth Schuyler, Archie Mitchell, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas

#### Members Excused

Dan Gira, Curt Cragg

#### Staff Advisors and Visitors

John Menzies – County Parks  
Sophia Dentzel – Sage Trail Alliance  
Tracy Roberts – Acorn Village Forest School

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Hecker at 3:08 pm.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting were approved. Motion by Kalon Kelley. Seconded by Ray Ford.

#### Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

Tracy Roberts brought up an issue to the committee. A letter was provided to the membership that outlines the issue. She has been a long-time user of the Santa Ynez riverbed as part of an outdoor school. As of late, her access point at the Refugio Road crossing has been blocked by the landowners in the area. This culminated in a Sheriff being called and removing her school from the area. The Sheriff contacted her later and told her that he might not have been correct in removing her, but the issue is in question. Tracy's reading of the applicable laws is that there is a public easement along side the road and that the riverbed is free for public access. This issue and access has been in question in the last several years with landowners in the area putting barbed wire across the entire river (removed by Fish and Game with a citation issued), putting boulders on road shoulders to prevent parking (removed by Caltrans order) and lately by adding thick mulch to the area to make parking difficult. She also mentioned an access issue near Sunstone winery.

While the Committee agreed that public access to rivers and green spaces is important, we are not empowered to enforce the access. We referenced her to the County Counsels office. Jon Menzies would also help by providing maps illustrating the easement along Refugio Road.

There was also a mention of access issues near Sunstone winery. This could be of interest, since Sunstone may want a permit for the location.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **US Forest Service Update**

None

### **County Update**

See New Business on Trail Academy.

#### **CRAHTAC Chair Update**

Mike Heckler mentioned an upcoming trail workday at Cachuma by the cycling league on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The same group has worked on Cachuma trails several times in the past year.

### **Election of New Officers for 2020**

Postponed.

### **New Business**

- Jon Menzies attended a Trail Academy presented by Sophia Dentzel and the Sage Trail Alliance. This included lectures and two days on the trails at Elings Park and on the West Fork of Cold Springs Trail. There were approximately 35 students at the workshop.
- A letter was presented by Faith Deeter in support of the Refugio Rd. Trail Restoration project. A motion was made by Otis and seconded by Kevin to support the project. The motion was approved. Jon Menzies was going to put the letter on CRAHTAC letterhead for Mike Heckler to sign and give to Faith Deeter.

### **Announcements**

- There was an official trail opening for Colds Spring Trail. There was a considerable amount of work done by various trail groups in order to reopen the trail. There will be a temporary bridge soon for bikes and pedestrians to cross the creek.
- There is a public meeting on the Interim Coastal Trail on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The question was brought up on why this is called a coastal trail when it runs along interior routes and not along the coast. Would the name be used to say a coastal trail exists, so why do we need another one? Kalon Kelley made a motion to draft a letter for the meeting stressing that a coastal trail should be within the sights and sounds of the coast. The motion was seconded by Kevin Snow and approved by the committee. Kalon Kelley would create the letter on letterhead for Mike Heckler to sign and then present it to the committee working on the trail.

### **SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS**

#### **280: Cachuma Equestrian Trail**

There is more space in this area for trails. Is it possible to open up new trails, specifically near Santa Cruz Bay? The land is under BLM control with grazing and this would be their decision and not the county's.

#### **319: Orcutt Trails**

The Valleyview development is starting construction. This will necessitate re-routing of some of the trails. There are concerns on how the re-routing will occur.

#### **323: Arroyo Burro / San Antonio / Jesusitas Trails**

After the Cave Fire, the Arroyo Burro trail was cleared by the Forest Service from East Camino Cielo down to San Antonio Creek.

326: Franklin Trail

The Franklin Trail is in great shape.

333: Baron Ranch Trail

Kalon is working on security issues for the property. Public Works needs to have a written plan to determine the necessary steps to open the property, so that the goal posts do not keep moving.

356: Santa Ynez Valley Trails:

There is an alignment study underway looking at the Santa Ynez river trail.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jack Bish