

CRAHTAC

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

Monday, May 11, 2020 3:00 pm.

By Zoom Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee Members Present

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Kalon Kelley	Jack Bish	Mike Hecker	Ruth Schuyler	
	Ray Ford	Faith Deeter		
	Otis Calef			
	Dan Gira			

Members Absent

Art Najera, Curt Cragg, Kevin Snow, David Hosking, Archie Mitchell, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas and Cary Losson

Members Excused

Staff Advisors and Visitors

Jon Menzies – County Parks Trails Coordinator
Teñell Matlovsky – County Surveyor Supervisor
Ben Elleuterger – Sage Trail Alliance
Dillon Osleger – Sage Trail Alliance
Todd Stepien – Cachuma Lake Operations Manager
Dan Ardoin – Santa Maria Valley Open Spaces
Ashley Mayfield – Montecito Trails Foundation

I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Hecker at 3:06 pm.

II: Roll Call

III: Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 13, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion by Otis Calef. Seconded by Dan Gira.

IV: Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

None

V: Correspondence

None

VI: Updates

Mike Hecker – Trails very busy, even at 6:30 in the morning by Dan Gira. Comment agreed upon by several members. This usage is a nice trend that will hopefully continue after the current crisis. Is there a way to get more new people to participate with trails and maybe help with volunteering and trail projects? Maybe generic signage for each area that advertises that the trails are maintained by volunteers and give contact information. SAGE is

already looking into this issue and will keep us posted on their efforts. They are currently getting quotes for the signage. The Trail Council will help with costs as per Dan Gira and Otis Calef.

Faith Deeter – There are signs going up in the Santa Ynez Valley on trails that are trying to keep people off the easements and roadsides. Some of these roads are on private areas and they are within their rights. This issue is a function of the lack of public access to trails in the Valley. Other signage is going up on the way to the river in areas where prescriptive easements should exist.

VII: New Business

- Teñell Matlovsky (County Surveyor) – Presented a survey tool that can be used for trail and recorded map research. This will include subdivision easement rights. It may not include all methods that the County has to get an easement. This is accessed through the Public Works website into the County Surveyor section. An interactive map can be launched, but it should be noted that the lines on the map may not be the exact property lines. Some are more tax lines versus an actual surveying line. The map has search functionality by parcel number or address. It is better to use the Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN). There is a large amount of data that is accessible through clicking on the various links. This tool allows the user to look for public easements and other items. However, there are research challenges with the tool. Even with an easement on the deed of a County resolution, there may not be an indication on the map. An examination of the deed or County resolutions will be necessary to fully research a parcel or potential easement. Another viewer was presented that will work on a mobile device in the field. The same information is available, but with more functionality and ease of use. There is a GPS function that will bring the user directly to information at their current location. The Beta version will be accessible in about a week. Please utilize this and give feedback to help with the full version release. He is willing to have a more in-depth conversation with a smaller group in the future.
- County starting to have more garbage pickups at trailheads. With increased usage, there are other social distancing issues cropping up. Some of the increased usage is from non-resident users.
- Franklin was recently brushed and some “pull off areas” were created.

IX: ACTION ITEMS

Letters of Support:

- Hollister Ranch – We are advocating for public access. Dan Gira presented a letter to the committee prior to the meeting. Kalon Kelley provided some pre-meeting comments. He put the letter to stress the disenfranchisement of the North County with the reduction of coastal access over the past forty years. This is meant to be an opening statement for CRAHTAC on this issue. Please send all comments to Dan Gira by Thursday. Dan Gira will put these together into a new letter and send out to the committee for a review over the weekend. Letter will go out after weekend. A Hollister Ranch Coastal Access Group is being formed with an application process ending yesterday.

Motion by Dan Gira, seconded by Faith Deeter and approved by the committee to make Kalon Kelley the CRAHTAC applicant to the group. It was noted that Mark Wilkinson from the Trails Council also applied.

- Dangermond Preserve – A draft letter also went out to the committee prior to the meeting. This letter went out shortly before the meeting. As per the Hollister Ranch letter, send comments to Dan Gira by Thursday for inclusion and submission next week.
- Baron Ranch – Letter in the works. There are currently environmental issues with a hawk in the tree and the frogs under the bridge. What would be the cost and time to relocate the frogs. Can an expert be hired to put a plan together and estimate the costs to conduct the work? CRAHTAC’s position is that the trail should be open as soon as possible for multiple use, seven days a week. First – open it. Second – get the

bridge in place. The Public Work's report that was previously discussed is currently on pause. Jon Menzies will inquire as to the status prior to the next meeting. Dan Gira will draft a short letter for the committee to review. The trail has been worked over the last year and is in good shape. The connection to the top might be purposefully incomplete to prevent usage prior to opening.

Connectivity of West Camino Cielo from Refugio Road to Gaviota. Currently, you would have to drop 1000 feet to the north side at Dos XXXX Ranch, under Reagan's ranch to Refugio Road. There is a possibility to traverse to the south of Reagan's property. This is an ongoing issue of completely the access to through West Camino Cielo.

Building an access single track, multiuse trail from Nojoqui Falls to West Camino Cielo. How would this trail be made? What is the access through the properties? This topic should be discussed in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish