

CRAHTAC

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

Monday, January 11, 2021 3:00 pm.

By Zoom Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING

Note: I missed the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

Committee Members Present

District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5
Kalon Kelley	Jack Bish	Mike Hecker		
Kevin Snow	Ray Ford	Faith Deeter		
	Otis Calef	Curt Cragg		
	Dan Gira			

Members Absent

David Hosking, Ruth Schuyler, Archie Mitchell, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas and Cary Losson

Members Excused

Staff Advisors and Visitors

John Menzies – County Parks
George Amoon – Contract Parks Planner
Todd Stepien – Cachuma
Ashlee Mayfield

I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mike Hecker at 3:05 pm.

II: Roll Call

III: Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 9, 2020 meeting were approved. Motion by Otis Calef. Seconded by Dan Gira.
WHAT HAPPENED???

IV: Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

None

V: New Officers

Chairman – Otis Calef
Vice Chairman – Mike Hecker
Secretary – Jack Bish

VI: Correspondence

Letter drafted by Dan Gira and signed by Mike Hecker that is dated January 11, 21. Committee approval is needed. Motion by Jack Bish: The letter as suggested is approved with the caveat that changes can be suggested in the next 24 hours to be considered by Dan Gira and Mike Hecker. Seconded by Kevin Snow. Approved.

VI: Updates

Jon Menzies – Baron bridge is in place. They are nearing completion of the remediation work and Trails Council is doing some tread work and adding signage before the public will be allowed to access. This includes hydromulching and trying to establish some plantings.

VII: New Business

George Amoon, Contract Park Planner, for a discussion of trails near agriculture in regards to a project as part of a group of new houses in the greater Santa Maria area. There is a buffer policy for agriculture with the distance to recreation and is dependent upon passive or active agriculture. This zoning ordinance was brought up by the landowner of the project.

The policy lives in the LUDC. The Board has consistently found that trails are consistent with agriculture. These comprehensive plans supersede this zoning issue. There is a zoom meeting on this subject on February 3. Otis will attend and present a letter at this meeting if possible.

Motion: Kevin Snow made a motion to have Dan Gira draft a letter on this issue to clarify that the Board's history on this issue and the fact that the General plan supersedes these zoning ordinances. The ordinance should be changed to clarify. Seconded by Mike Hecker. Approved.

IX: Action Items

280 Live Oak Equestrian Trail: The trail may open to other user groups. It is unclear what will happen and how to ensure that the user groups can coexist on the trails. The largest complaint is horse and bike interactions. Current usage is 2.4 users per day on average. The low usage is one of the reasons for the discussion to open the area up to more users. The pilot program would be the first six months with adding hikers only, adding bikers in six months and then six months of observations to determine controls and how to manage interactions.

How do we keep the equestrian community safe and on the trail while adding other user groups? This is the main question that needs to be explored. What do other areas do? Open, long discussion on the topic.

319 Orcutt Trails: In great shape. These are a great resource that every community should have.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish