

CRAHTAC

County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee

Monday, May 10, 2021 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	Kirk Nordgren		
Kevin Snow	Ray Ford	Faith Deeter		
	Otis Calef			
	Dan Gira			

Members Absent

Ruth Schuyler, Archie Mitchell, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas

Members Excused

Staff Advisors and Visitors

Jon Menzies – County Parks
George Amoon – Contract Parks Planner
Todd Stepien – Cachuma Operations Manager
Dillon Osleger – SAGE Trail Alliance
Ashlee Mayfield - MTF
Kathleen Rosenthal – President, Santa Ynez Valley Riders
Jessica Schley
Dawn Perrine
Suzanne Duca
Rob Mehl
Alicia Sturnick

I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Otis Calef at 3:11 pm.

II: Roll Call

III: Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 8, 2021 meeting were approved with a couple of corrections noted. Jack Bish will make the changes and submit to Jon Menzies. Motion by Dan Gira. Seconded by Kevin Snow. Motion approved.

IV: Public Comment/Announcements/Correspondence

None. Comments to take place in the individual action items.

V: Updates

Otis reported on a trail project on the Santa Cruz trail.

Jon Menzies mentioned new committee members from the 4th and 5th districts.

VI: New Business

- What are the best times to have meeting to help spur attendance? Please make suggestions by email to Jon to figure this out. In the past, there have been various times. Kirk Nordgren mentioned later in the day to make it easier with work. Jack Bish mentioned that during work hours makes it easier to invite county employees. Kevin Snow mention more frequent meetings. Faith Deeter mentioned that Zoom is a great way to run the meetings to limit drive time. Dan Gira mentioned there are many projects going on currently.
- Can we invite Public Works? Faith Deeter asked if they could attend. Dan Gira mentioned that we would need a specific item to discuss with them.
- Faith Deeter brought up replacing committee members that have not been attending the meetings.
- California Coastal Trail (and private coastal land holdings) Dangermond Preserve and Los Varas Ranch (Nature Conservancy and UC Holdings) Neither of these groups have responded to requests for updates on the Coastal Trail. Dan Gira mentioned that there is work being done in these areas and permits will be needed. This gives us a way to leverage an opportunity for the Coastal Trail. Faith Deeter asked what kind of trail this would be. Otis Calef mentioned that this is a multiuse trail. Kalon Kelley mentioned that we met the Dangermond people two years ago and they wanted time. He suggests we request another meeting first to get an update.
- Receive Live Oak Trail PPT: Bureau of Reclamation owns the land. Historically the area has been equestrian only with a permit and an access code. Looking to put a vending machine type machine to sell permits or a trail counter to track data. The gate has been left open lately to make public access similar to nearby Paradise Rd (also Federal land). Hiking at Live Oak started with the Cachuma Resource Management plan in March 2002, which was drafted with public input and environmental analysis by the Federal Government. There was a public comment period and public meetings/comment period. The public comment period ended in October 2008. It took 10 years to develop and is good for another 10 years. In March 2012, the BoS entered into an agreement to manage the property. Currently, hikers are added to the area. Data will be kept. Email and comments from the public are being collected. Tod Stepien has more current data. April 15th through today (excluding annual passes) 151 hikers and 25 equestrians permits. There are rangers and camp hosts in the area. They are currently trying to get three patrols on weekends and two patrols on weekdays.

VII: Correspondence

Letter from Santa Ynez Valley Riders: Faith Deeter would like to have a dedicated meeting on this topic.

IX: Action Items

258. Coastal Trail: Discussion started above in New Business. Dan Gira will draft two letters to the UC and Henry Yang about Los Varas Ranch and the BoS about the Dangermond Preserve. He will send these out to the committee to approve. Motion for this by Kevin Snow. Second by Ray Ford. Motion approved.

280 Live Oak Equestrian Trail: Faith Deeter mentions that runners coming behind poses a danger to the horse riders. Faith Deeter made a motion to have a special meeting of CRAHTAC to discuss only this item to gather information. Motion rescinded for now. Otis Calef does not want to hold a meeting on just this topic. Kevin Snow pointed out that a special meeting can be held. Kevin Snow made this motion. Ray Ford seconded. Committee discussion was followed by guest commentary. No committee vote was held.

Kathleen Rosenthal – Santa Ynez Valley Riders: Wanted to make sure that CRAHTAC had background information on this project because she believed from the last meeting that CRAHTAC did not have this information. The Resource plan mentioned reviews by environmental systems as dictated by National and

California laws. These have not been done. Same for cultural issues. The same thing should happen that did in 1989 when the trail was created. These items need to be updated.

Dawn Perrine is concerned about the data collection at the site. There is a lot of past data missing. Is it accurate to use the data from recent dates due to the pandemic? This is not a solid data set, but is not being gathered corrected. A new data counter is needed to give good data. There is also a question of equity, since this is the only equestrian trail in the area. There are 84 other trails. Also, there are 5 trails for mountain bikes on the other side of the lake. Also, why did the port-a-potty get moved in front of the gate with pickups on Saturday at 10, which is a safety issue. It is hard to find information and CRAHTAC should attempt to slow down the Parks Department on this process. She does not believe that County parks should lead this since they are not giving good information.

Jessica Schley believes there is a lack of adherence to policy and plans. She wants to hold the Parks Division accountable to their own rules which she believes have been violated. She wants this plan to move forward, but there needs to be a good work with all groups including the livestock operation. She believes if we do this correctly, then it will open other opportunities.

Ray Ford gave a rundown of his experiences over the last few months at the site while he has been constructed the kiosk. Not everything is working perfectly, but things are going relatively well.

Jessica Schley mentioned that there was an internal email in Parks that mentioned that this is not a pilot program and there was not an 18-month time period. How did Ray Ford build a kiosk if he could not dig even a post hole? Which rules is the County going to adhere to? This is an example of problems with the County's work on this project. Can riders ride on the south coast of the lake or is this not permitted? Can the Bureau of Reclamation have a visitor at the special meeting?

Ray Ford made a motion to adjourn. Kalon Kelley seconded. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish