

CRAHTAC
County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee
Monday, July 12, 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	Ruth Schuyler	
Kevin Snow	Otis Calef	Faith Deeter		
	Dan Gira			

Members Absent

Sheila Snow, Arthur Najera, Archie Mitchell, Barry Stotts, Frank Freitas

Members Excused

Ray Ford

Staff Advisors and Visitors

Jon Menzies – County Parks
George Amoon – Contract Parks Planner
Chris Sneddon – Public Works
Mark Friedlander – Public Works
Todd Stepien – Cachuma Operations Manager
Abe Powell – Bucket Brigade
Barbara Cox Winters
Chip Wulbrandt
Dawn Perrine
Jessica Schley
Kathleen Rosenthal
Kerry Kellogg
Mark Wilkinson
Suzanne Duca

I: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Otis Calef.

II: Roll Call of Committee Members

III: Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 10, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion by Kalon Kelley. Seconded by Kirk Nordgren. Motion approved.

Add the letter that was given from the Santa Ynez Riders to the minutes with the agenda.

IV: Public Comment

Suzanne Duca: Minutes incomplete in reference to hiking incorrectly allowed in 2002.

Kathleen Rosenthal: Noted that additional uses require a public hearing.

Correspondence will be posted online with the minutes.

V: Updates

- a) CRAHTAC Chair
- b) County Parks Division

VI: New Business

- a) From Public Works by Chris Sneddon:

- a. Refugio Rd. Roadside Trail Update: Dan Gira mentioned that Supervisor Hartman wanted us to talk about this subject. Chris mention the direction of Supervisor Hartman to start getting going. Roadside access will be long term, but we can start on part of this now. From 246 as far north as possible, using the model that Abe Powell has used in Montecito. This is a public/private partnership. It is not just the government doing the project. The public is also a part of the work as both volunteers and supporters for the project. They would like to get at least to Samantha Rd. this year. The scope needs to be worked on with all user groups. From a question by Kirk, they would focus on a continuous path on one side first. The path would be two part with a pedestrian and an equestrian portion with two to three feet buffer zones. The side of the road and interplay between users has to be worked on. While it is true that these are public areas, there are all of obstruction in the way to deal with such as utilities, land features, etc. They do not just remove all the encroachments. They try to balance the use of the public and adjacent property owners. Public works are responsible for the right of ways on public county roads. These will be ADA complaint pathways such as concrete walkways with ramps, etc. This might not be what the community wants. From Jon, how can CRAHTAC help? Community input and support. Knowledge of the topics. From Faith, the utilities are only on one side of the road. The county owns 82 feet of width with some variation. Horses should be as far away from the road as possible. The speed in this area is 45 mph. The purpose of the path is safety and this should be the first priority. From Otis, this will probably require a base and the many were thinking a DG path without pavement and curbs, etc. Can we move forward with this through Public Works? From Dan Gira, let's have Abe Powell speak, since this is on the topic and gives options that will make a safe path, but not be held to the same rules as Public Works. From Chris, Public Works does not maintenance DG paths only concrete. In Montecito, there are agreements on maintenance that opens up some options without Public Works rules.
- b. Abe Powell – Santa Barbara Buckle Brigade. They have had a three year agreement with Public Works on putting paths in Montecito. Government has many rules on construction. These don't always fit in with the needs and desires of the community. They have a build and maintenance agreement with Public Works to connect the six schools with pedestrian paths. After the debris flow, they were fixing paths and came to the conclusion that they needed additional paths. An example of this is the North Jameson Walking Trail. The county put in a curb or asphalt berm. The Brigade put into a 4 inch road base (compacted) Benda board with a DG surface and bark on the side for weed abatement. The next project was the Olive Mill Walking Trail. They are currently working on the Hot Springs Walking Trail. There has been an immediate increase in usage and walking through these areas. They did not only want to improve walking safety but to also increase curb appeal. They have 350 volunteers and are currently looking for capital to go from 2.5 to 6.5 miles of trail. The trails are not all DG paths. There are formal and informal trails. For informal trails, they have internal guidelines with, when possible, screening vegetation, no curb, no DG, set back from the road, 3" – 4" when possible, but narrower when needed. An example is given of a wood chip path with screening plants to keep cars from parking in the area. They prefer crushed Santa Ynez shale. They want to add another seven miles of informal trails. He would like to see the same thing in Santa Ynez. In Santa Ynez, this should be easier as the community plan has 10 miles of roadside trails. Montecito does not have these trails in the plans. A big portion of the work in Montecito is keeping the maintenance funded. Dan Gira suggested sending a letter to Public Works about, another of Supervisor Hartman's priorities, the Foxen Road trail that could be made utilizing Abe Powell's method. The letter has 5 points; (1) Public Works would send a letter to all home owners mentioning the public road right-a-way to let them know there is an easement that can be used to make safety trails, (2) public/volunteer groups such as the Bucket Brigade would be making these, (3) if the land owners do not cooperate then a sterner approach might be necessary, (4) is there a tracking system for encroachments?, (5) Public Works could do some outreach illustrating what is planned. Dan Gira wants the letter to ask for action by Public Works. He would like Public Works to look the letter over first to make sure this is doable by Public Works and would not hit budgetary snags. Abe Powell mentions that this is a marketing project that needs people to be contacted in multiple ways. The neighbors spreading the news. The county mentioning that this is our land. The trail groups can also discuss it. Chris from Public Works mentions that there is not an encroachment group. They address complaints. They also look at roadway safety when they are conducting maintenance and data on crashes. He suggests the first step is getting a section started to show what is planned, so that people can see it.

This will help community acceptance and buy in. He suggested going through more than just Public Works as not all trails are on road easements.

Dan Gira made a motion that he would put together a letter based on his outline that would be sent to the committee members and send edits back. He would then send to Chris Sneddon prior to sending to the Board. Faith seconded. Motion approved.

VII: Correspondence

VIII: Action Items

IX Announcements:

Active Transportation Plan – this is the sixth of six-community brainstorm meeting is 7/15 at 5:30 to 7:30 pm to discuss the Santa Maria valley area. They have a website with an interactive map that shows what people have been discussing and put in comments as desired.

Optional Action Items

280. Live Oak Equestrian Trail

From Jon Menzies: The trail was opened on 4/15 to hikers and equestrians. There is an eighteen-month trail project that is managing hiking as another option for the area. They have not seen any major issues with hiking in the previous equestrian only area. They are getting a new trail counter in the near future.

From Kathleen Rosenthal: They have been using the area with hiking groups and it has been working fine. Lots of birds. People having a good time. Kiosk is looking good. Picnic tables being worked on. She is concerned that there will be a full eighteen-month usage time and that it should be restarted when a more accurate system is in place. The Santa Ynez riders is working on a maintenance fund to help maintain the trail, especially if it ever rains again.

Bill Wallace Trail

From Otis, there is an opportunity for additional trails in this area.

From Dan, there are opportunities for additional trails due to owners wanting to add private recreational opportunities on their properties to the Recreational Plan to expedite permitting. This is an ongoing item and is what is happening on the Bill Wallace trail.

Hollister Ranch/Coastal Trail

Ongoing work.

There are several letters that need to be sent. Dangermond and the nature conservancy. Los Varas Ranch trail that is owned by the UC. Hollister Ranch.

General Comment/Request for Help:

From Mark Friedlander (Public Works): Complaints have been made about the narrow bridge on the Obern trail near Modoc and Nogal near the equestrian center with cyclists and equestrians sharing the area. He would like help with the signs and reflectivity from equestrians to make sure it is applicable.

General Comment:

From Faith, the metal stakes on Refugio Road near the river need to be removed now. How do we make it happen?

Dan Gira motion to adjourn. Kevin Snow seconded. Motion approved. Adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Bish