

TRAILS AND PATHS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 8.15 am

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8.15 am

Oral/Community Communications:

Roll Call: B. Eckstein, E. Ferrari, S. gold, G. Hanning, T. Lee, M. Rothrock, J. Shefren. C. Hughes, Council Liaison; H. Young, Public Works Director; Judith Murphy, Conservation Committee; Craig Sander and K. Stromeyer, PV Ranch Liaison; J. Hansen.

Approval of Minutes: E. Ferrari made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, S. Gold seconded, all were in favor.

Old Business:

- a. **Monthly (March) trail Conditions, Work, and Budget Update:** (Discussion): H. Young has started mowing Alpine Road. There is more grass this year due to no spray. The bulk of the work will be done in June/July. J. Shefren said the bridge behind Ford Field is very overgrown with poison oak and thistles. E. Ferrari asked that the chain on the Sequoia trail be removed as this is an all-weather trail and does not need to be closed. Sequoia trail has a muddy spot which needs to be addressed when the weather warms up . there is a tree down on Quilter trail closer to the Westridge end and also another smaller branch across the trail just up from the latter. G. Hanning says that in an area of Meadowood, they have put eucalyptus chips on the trail and it is hard to walk on. H. Young will address. J. Hansen asked about removing the tree branch on Possum. J. Coleman is following up and H. Young will also follow up with Woodside as J. Coleman was not at the meeting.
- b. **Annual Committee Update/Report to Council (April 10):** (Update): H. Young was there and said J. Coleman's presentation went very well.
- c. **Coal Mine ridge Trails:** (Discussion): S. Gold had photos of all the signs on Coal Mine, Old Spanish, Toyon and Bay Laurel. It looks very unfriendly and is the antithesis of the town's low-key approach to signage on its trails. It sets a bad precedent. If the point is to shame scofflaws into not bringing dogs or bikes, it has not worked before and there is no guarantee it will work now. It was remarked that people who use those trails on a regular basis do not see many scofflaws including the town's work crew who are on the trails doing maintenance. C. Sanders made a presentation and noted that the Board wishes to designate the area a Nature Preserve. G. Hanning asked whether the committee is being asked to approve the ranch as a Nature Preserve as other committees would have to weigh in and possibly the council. The feeling was that it sets an awkward precedent for other areas in town to ask to be called a Nature Preserve. The committee feels there are too many signs and the town's signposts state the usage on the trail so it does not warrant repetition and bigger and bolder signs saying the same thing. The trail experience is diminished with this proliferation of signs. M. Rothrock feels the ranch is setting a different precedent when the trails in question are town trails and should be treated as such and not separately because they are easements over private property. T. Lee summed up that education and good maps with information about the area on the kiosks. Simplify signage

and see if education works first. G. Hanning suggested that in the spirit of progress, list the signs to be removed and the ones to be installed. Final suggestions is to have the kiosk at the Willowbrook/Alpine entrance, and a sign at Toyon/Old Spanish saying no dogs and bikes instead of a kiosk. It should also say Portola Valley on it as these are town trails. Also a kiosk at the entrance to the PV Ranch from Blue Oaks. Agreement is subject to ASCC and town rules. C. Sanders will send an update version of the maps and signage on the upper and lower kiosk to T. Lee.

5. New Business:

a. Paso Del Arroyo asphalt path: Proposed project/Recommendation (discussion): H. Young said the residents wanted to get rid of the asphalt path which leads along the side of the Ramies garage and replace it with other material and also have some plantings to shield the view of the garage. It has already been approved by the council. Although the path is on the town trail system, it does not lead anywhere except to the 2 homes which are there.

b. Bicycle, Pedestrian & Traffic Safety Committee: Draft Pedestrian Safety Study (Discussion):

H. Young says to refer to the website.

c. c. Site Development Plans: (Discussion, as filed and applicable):

d. Accolades:

Adjournment: E. Ferrari made a motion, M. Rothrock seconded, all were in agreement and the meeting was adjourned at 10.40 am.