

Appointments to trail group are final, despite residents' concern

By ALIA WILSON

Conceptualization of the Stevens Creek Trail is powering forward after some hiccups over the appointment of a citizens working group last month.

According to Stevens Creek Trail Joint Cities Task Force member Megan Satterlee, the intent of the selection process was to draw residents from all four cities—Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Los Altos and Mountain View—with a variety of skill sets and a shared desire to see the Stevens Creek Trail completed, but with no predetermined idea as to its final location.

The joint cities task force is looking to connect the trail all the way from the bay to the hills.

Some residents spoke out against the appointment process for the working group at the Oct. 8 Sunnyvale City Council meeting, because residents living near the project were declared ineligible to participate.

The task force members agreed any resident within 500 feet of Stevens

Creek will have a bias for or against a trail that aligns with the creek.

“Since this citizen group is not intended to advocate for or against any particular trail alignment and the FPPC sets 500 feet as its definition of conflict of interest, it seemed fair and prudent to apply that same logic,” Satterlee said in an email. “It is unfortunate that making the discussion public resulted in confusion.”

One member of the public asked if the 500-foot rule was being applied to all applicants, even those from Los Altos. Satterlee said that it was, and yet she has seen correspondence suggesting it was applied selectively.

“This is not the case,” Satterlee said.

Sunnyvale’s task force representative, Chris Moylan, added that the idea behind the 500-foot rule was to eliminate obvious conflicts of interest.

“While the range of possible alignments goes farther than 500 feet away from the creek, any distance other than 500 feet would have been arbitrary on our part; using the state standard

said that we would make the appointments as if we were voting on a project,” Moylan said in an email. “The council members from all four cities agreed to this without much discussion; it was a no-brainer.”

Moylan also said none of the applicants from Mountain View, Los Altos or Cupertino lived within 500 feet of the creek, while four of the 16 Sunnyvale applicants did. Only two were selected from each city to serve on the working group.

Regardless of the task force’s intentions, David Hackson of Sunnyvale said he was disappointed with how the process was handled.

“Overall, I was disappointed but not surprised by the city council meeting,” Hackson said. “Some council members were genuinely concerned, others disinterested. Most didn’t want the hassle. Human nature. Myself and other concerned residents will continue to attend future meetings.”

For information about the project, visit sunnyvale.ca.gov/Departments/PublicWorks/

Mandarin business class Nov. 7

BY MATT WILSON

The Cupertino Chamber of Commerce is hosting an entrepreneur business class in Mandarin at the Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave. The class takes place on Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The all-day event is geared at start-ups and existing businesses owners who are just beginning or about to start a new venture. The workshop provides a comprehensive overview of what is required to begin and run

a business, from planning and legal requirements to accounting, taxes, insurance, marketing and more.

The Cupertino Chamber of Commerce’s Asian American Business Council is partnering with the city of Cupertino, SCORE, NOVA, the city of Milpitas and the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce for the event.

“When we first presented a half-day introduction class in Mandarin two years ago, the room was overflowing. There is

clearly a need to provide educational support for micro and home-based businesses within a meaningful cultural context,” said Vicky Tsai, AABC honorary chair and a small-business owner.

The workshop will be led by professionals of various industries who will share their experience with participants.

For more information, visit cupertino-chamber.org. To register, call Charlene Tsao Lai at 408.469.2368 or Catherine Chen at 408.335.9777.

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