SUMMARY OF MORCA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 5, 2014 at 6:30 PM, Black Bear Diner, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary

Attendees: 14 total ncluding officers Joel Trice (P), Ken Howat (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Sue Benjaram (MAL), and Phil Craig (MAL)

Item 1: President's Opening Remarks --

Action: **Joel focused on SCMBF and Sea Otter Classic; both successful outcomes! He summarized Warhorse Day ride on May 3, where we chatted with Marina politicians and equestrians. Volunteer pizza party May 9 at 6:30 at Mountain Mikes. . Laguna Seca Twilight ride is May 14 + chili (see item 9 below).**

Notes: SOC recap-- $2,676 total raised through volunteer work and raffle. 63 MORCA members renewed and we have 233 members total. Big thanks to all volunteers!! Sue noted nice Facebook blog re last year's Warhorse ride with pix and video. We had good chats with Marina officials re Marina Equestrian Center as major trailhead/visitor center and corridor to Natl. Monument. Sue suggested link to Warhorse event next year and publicize the ride a little earlier.

Item 2: FORA-ESCA+ County Lands (Happy Trails)

Action: **Nick described efforts to communicate with Jane Parker/County re grant for trail signage at Happy Trails area. Henri noted brand new announcement for Fort Ord Committee on Monday May 12 at 9 AM. Phil and/or Nick to attend. We will also attend May 19 Parker pizza meeting in Marina. We discussed the gray area as FORA-ESCA says they do not own property anymore, but County has not quite accepted it. A good map that identifies status of various parcels is needed as there is confusion.**

Notes: Nick had made several calls to County staff without success, and they finally called back. Nick Nichols is key staff person re FORHA trails master plan.

Item 3: Trail work for May

Action: **Darius reviewed the planned tasks for May 17. 303 hrs to date vs. 420 all last year**

Notes: April work completed lower Goat; May will likely do upper Goat and T36 as feasible (collect rocks for armoring). Also lots of poison oak to trim! A good core of 10-12 workers and thanks to Tony for high school labor! May 13 tentative trail meeting. From last time, we may be getting $1,000 for Oakley and a key goal is to participate in BLM's Master Trail Plan.

Item 4: Treasurer Report

Action: **Nick highlighted income and expenses. With brand new checks just arriving, $7,200 is estimated balance (includes $1,526 trail fund). Nick and Joel will coordinate on Amazon Smile donation program. Nick coordinated with Parker's aide (Kristy Markey) on grant concept for Happy Trails signage.**

Notes: Re County lands—Need trail numbering system to avoid confusion and accurately call in any medical emergency. Nick to e-mail Nick Nichols.

Item 5: Toro Baseball fields (Phil)

Action: **Phil attended briefing and described the proposal; he felt favorably about it but noted much opposition by neighbors and others (parking a big concern, plus elitism). He noted this sentiment could affect MORCA goals re pump track etc.**

Notes: The group discussed this issue and asked about alternatives (Marks Ranch land not available). Some asked if we should be involved at all. Joel noted we might be asked to write a letter of support, but perhaps our thrust should be the need for a Master Toro Park plan. We don't want to alienate any group against pump track.

Item 6: Little Bellas (request for structures)

Action: **Karl and George willing to help but need a date and specific structures that are needed (must be portable by hand). Mary and Sue are helping as mentors.**

Notes: Bellas are 4-6 PM every other Sunday; need specific dates from Brianna.

Item 7: TAKMBD on October 4, 2014

Action: **Sue noted we now have about $2,500 to spend. Strider bikes will be available for the little kids. Little Bella network may really help spread the word. REI + Subaru another option. Structures need to be suited for younger kids.**

Notes: See Item 8 re bike park or pump track, possibly ready by TAKMBD. Soon need to ramp up publicity.

Item 8: Toro Pump Track

Action: **Ken C. summarized his vision and potential donations of materials, labor etc. He suggests working "bottom up" with supportive rangers. Directors previously voted to allocate $1,000 Oakley money toward this project. Ken and Ken to submit proposal (Sycamore or Buckeye area).**

Notes: County Parks staff appears to be open to concept as they want revenue and want to reduce irrigated lawn. A new issue is the baseball diamond proposal as it will take up parking, limits alternative locations; also is riling up neighbors about new uses at Toro.

Item 9: May 14 Twilight Ride at Laguna Seca Track

Action: **MORCA hosts 5:30-7:30+ . we need 4 chili cooks for the tasting.**

Notes: Dave/Sue for sure and John/Kim (maybe) – who other want to cook for bragging rights! Also a coasting contest down the corkscrew. Funds benefit MORCA.

Item 10: Marina Greenway Project

Action: **Joel met with CSUMB professors regarding this 9-mile perimeter trail concept—a 50-100 ft wide swath with paved path with dirt side trails for family friendly multi-use. Darius and Henri to meet with them again; Darius to contact new City Manager with ideas.**

Notes: Goal of Marina is to attract younger tech workers and businesses to eco-friendly community. Henri + Darius to meet again with ideas. Pathway is Dunes to MEC to Intergarrison to along Slainas River and back around via Rec Trail. Joel noted need for good trailhead access as part of the plan. Henri suggested skills stops (like a par-course) for bikes.

Item 11A: BETA/MBE Request re horse-bike buddy program + trail grants

Action: **Joel met "PJ" at Warhorse Day. PJ suggested a similar program to one in Santa Cruz where horse and bikes ride together occasionally as a safety training. Also a "carrot fest" concept to acclimate horses to bikes. PJ says many Monterey Bay Equestrians rarely do trailwork (due to age) but they provide grants to groups like MORCA who maintain multi-use trails. Joel to obtain grant application form.**

Notes: Other ideas include "pull-outs" for horses in trail design. This also has potential for a joint event with FORT Friends.

Item 11B: Trek Dirt Series

Action: **Ken H. is volunteering this month and discussed possible concept of hosting the Dirt Series here rather than in SCruz. Ken invited staff to our night ride.**

Notes: We brainstormed some ideas of best trails for various levels.

Item 11C: IMBA Instructor Training

Action: **Ken H. described IMBA training levels and who would be interested. He will contact instructor for more details.**

Notes: IMBA trains Level 1-2-3 (ride leader, basic instruction, advanced instruction) – did I get that right?

NEXT MEETING – JUNE 2, 2014 AT 6:30 PM BlackBear Diner unless noted otherwise

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