

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, August 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Golden Tee Restaurant, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 8/4/2016

Attendees: All Directors were present; members/guests included Darius Rike.
2016 Directors: Joel Trice (P), Sue Benjaram (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Phil Craig (MAL) and Brian Tomasini (MAL)

Next Board Meeting: The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. The next board meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday Sept 5. Because this is Labor Day, meeting date may be changed. Location goal is a pizza restaurant (Phil and Darius are checking options). Stay tuned for details.

Next Member Meeting: The quarterly general membership meeting (social emphasis) is **Sunday August 21 at 1 PM at Meadowbrook Tennis Club in Seaside** (pool party/BBQ etc). See e-mail and Facebook posts for details.

8/1/2016 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. **Opening remarks**
2. **FORA/ESCA Update**
3. **County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails**
4. **Toro Park Issues**
5. **Trail Work Update**
6. **Treasurer's Report**
7. **Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)**
8. **Bike Park**
9. **Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD)**
10. **Calendar Review – what's coming up?**
11. **2016 Planning (includes Waiver review and High School Team Fund)**
12. **Meet-Up**
13. **Incorporation**
14. **Elections coming soon**
15. **Other Business – Trash cans for BLM; New MORCA Jerseys**

Item 1: Opening Remarks– None.

Item 2: FOR A-ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The FOR A-ESCA noontime meeting scheduled for August 24 was cancelled. The next meeting should be on November 23. FORA-ESCA has distributed numerous e-mails about the Oak Oval/Parker Flats area near 8th and Gigling (south of Gigling) not being open despite “Happy Trails” maps that exist. The Final EIR on Monterey Downs is now available. See e-mails and Facebook posts for more info. The Army is slowly moving forward with formal Work Plan for BLM Area B trails that we use, but no information is available at present. They are waiting for a formal Record of Decision (ROD) in order to proceed. See also FORA website (www.fora.org) and www.fora-esca-rp.com. The Army site is www.fortordcleanup.com

Item 3: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA. Nick reported that we still have not received a response to our formal letter to the County requesting a 12-month extension and to start initial activities. At present, our grant from Monterey Foundation is on hold but has not been

cancelled. Brian and Nick attended Jane Parker's Hot Topics meeting and will try again in August. The Fort Ord Committee meeting was cancelled so we did not have opportunity to raise the issue then. We discussed another formal letter to RMA (Resource Management Agency) which is now the umbrella agency over Parks, Planning Departments. We want to focus on signing trails all agree should be open as part of the FORHA plan. We still need to write up our opposition and better suggestions about FORHA trails recommended to be closed. We await return of Fred Watson to help with maps etc.

Item 4: County Update/Toro Park. There is an August 15 (?) trail committee meeting scheduled. Phil has been hiking Toro regularly to assess trail conditions; he noted a recent legal trail reroute was done poorly due to lack of oversight and training for the student volunteers. (We suggest that standard Guidelines are needed). Also rogue trail-builder "Gus" continues to do his thing. A subcommittee will be addressing cows in Toro (fencing needed in certain areas). Current emphasis is on fire roads (some could be removed and hopefully re-routed as sustainable trails). We agreed we can do some research on volunteer agreements and other aspects of volunteer logistics (HS to contact BLM; Sue to contact Linda George re Tahoe; Darius re SLO; Santa Clara may be another model). Parks Director Mark Mariscal has retired and no replacement is known. John Akeman is primary contact for now. Parks appears to have been subsumed under Resource Management Agency.

From last month, We agreed on the concept of bringing in a person from IMBA Trail Solutions to give a presentation to County on general principles of good multi-use trail design—Joel to contact IMBA regarding potential cost to bring one person out. This could be followed by a more formal proposal for a trails plan concept if desired by the Trail Committee. We agreed that cooperation by land owner (County) and user groups is essential for the trail design team.

Item 5: Trail Work Update – July trail day had 10 people. Next trail day is **August 20 at 9 AM at 8th and Gigling**. Focus will be on trail trimming on Trails 17, 55 and 23, possibly lower 24. Good news that our proposal for lower Ewok re-route (currently rutted and straight down) was approved by BLM. Darius and crew will be rough flagging in the next few months, then await rains.

Item 6: Treasurer's Report and Other Financial – Nick reviewed our current status through Aug 1, 2016 (roughly \$31,047 is current total balance, including \$17,900 in grant account, and \$13,121 in checking). We received \$840 from SeaOtter for our dual slalom volunteering; \$340 was transferred from Paypal (old night ride fees). Primary expense was \$123 for trail day food. Joel has submitted Bosch paperwork for trail-related funding. As an unexpected surprise, we received three checks totaling \$700 from a PG&E employee in San Francisco!! We are trying to track down contact info to say thank you.

Item 7: TAKMBD is Saturday, October 1, 2016 – Sue reported that County is dragging their feet re confirmation, made more tenuous due to fire camp and current closure of Toro. She has contacted Cleary and Natividad Hospital re participation. Goody bag stuffing will be Tues Sept 27. Set up will be Friday September 30. Bobcat is good for kids bike (buy one get one free). We also may receive one new and one gently used donated bikes (pay Bobcat to spruce up). We may have a horse visitor. There may be Pearl Izumi discount coupons. Eventbrite will be used to register kids. Volunteer Spot (signup.com) can be used for volunteers. Darius—please check with Subaru re \$500 for lunch). Gary Courtright verbally committed \$250 from Carmel Kitchens and Baths. Also check with Calif Custom Sheds, who has made generous donations in the past.

We previously voted to allocate \$750 for high school teams who come out to help, based on hours or tasks performed. There was much discussion on how best to handle this. To minimize our logistics time, it was suggested that specific tasks/kidpower be written down (similar to Dual Slalom for SOC) and pitch it to coaches to handle filling the positions. Another option is signups for specific positions ahead of time, though kids tend to not sign up in advance. Sue to contact coaches and decide what makes most sense. Sue/Kelly to contact newspapers and other media in the next month or so. Hopefully the fire is gone by September!

Item 8: Bike Park/Pump Track -- Darius meets with City of Marina, Regional Park District officials and Alex from Action sports (pump track builder) on August 3 at 5:30 pm re pump track options and possibilities at the Locke Paddon Park site. Some citizens have expressed concern about “loss of serenity” with kids having fun, but Darius thinks the pump track could be sited to meet both group’s needs. Another option is an old baseball field near Vets Transition Center, but it is in an isolated and rundown area—not safe or appealing.

Item 9: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – We noted that MPRPD continues to work toward plans to take over management of **Happy Trails**, Jacks Peak and Toro Park from County. (They already own Palo Corona near Highway 1/Carmel Valley). Darius previously indicated that MPRPD might be interested in a bike park as part of a future **Fort Ord Regional Park** concept. MPRPD has tentatively accepted an invitation from FORT Friends to speak on September 8—stay tuned for confirmation.

Palo Corona Management Plan. A good chunk was burned in Soberanes fire last week. Status of Management Plan is uncertain.

Item 10: Calendar Review – Items of note include:

August 21 – Social pool party and BBQ

September 8 – FORT Friends meeting -- talks by Army and Park District (to be confirmed)

October 1 – TAKMBD

October 5—Twilight Ride at Laguna Seca (we host)

October 8 – Cyclovia in Salinas (Brian to lead)

Nov 10-12—IMBA World Summit, Bentonville AK Phil indicated a willingness to go. Joel checked the agenda and info is limited re usefulness of sending a local land manager (e.g., BLM, County, Regional Parks)

Item 11: 2016 Planning – Three issues listed are:

(1) **Waivers** – Evaluate current waiver (Brian) and now the insurance company wants us to keep all waivers for 2 years, so address file management (Henri and Nick). Henri recently received a sample used by the Sierra Club.

(2) **High school team fund/scholarship** (example: bike or race fees for deserving student). We previously voted to allocate \$500 this year toward a separate scholarship fund (different from TAKMBD donation to team volunteers) plus have Wayne’s donation buckets at TAKMBD plus other solicitations. Next year this will be a budgeted item with specific protocol on how to spend.

(3) **Website upgrade.** Darius and committee members met on April 21, and found a few sites to look at as models. No action since then.

Item 12: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com We have more than 80 members and have met some nice folks, especially at the Beginner Rides. Sue has advised members re October 1 TAKMBD. David Butler has a large San Jose meetup group that often comes to Fort Ord.

Item 13: Incorporation -- Joel, Nick and Henri continued to wrestle with incorporation paperwork. We are recognized as a California non-profit corporation by Secretary of state, IRS and Franchise Tax Board. Henri successfully submitted the SI-200 information form, and will help Joel complete another form for the Attorney General.

Item 14: Elections coming soon– We started to brainstorm for November 2016 elections. President Joel will be stepping down from the Board so **we need folks out there to consider running**. Other board members indicate willingness to continue to serve (Phil indicated he would step aside if a new person wanted to run). Once elected as a director, the directors then choose the club officers. Darius indicated a (think about it) possibility of returning and urged other active members to step up and help serve on the board.

Item 15: A: Other Business/Trash Cans for BLM -- We await the opportunity from Eric Morgan to formally present/PR opportunity the 10 new BLM trash cans/dog poop receptacles plus stickers showing donation by MORCA and FORT Friends. Sticker delivery to Tammy this week. Brian suggested informing the public on how leaving plastic bags harms the sheep who may ingest it. Thanks Brian for leading this effort!! Note new dog-related signage on various trails.

Item 15: B: Other Business/Voler Semi-Custom Jerseys for MORCA – Nick created MORCA art work that can be superimposed on many different styles and colors. He brought the kit that he will proudly wear in the Cascade race in Oregon next weekend! Way to represent Nick! In a separate e-mail we will describe how to order your own “semi-custom” jersey.

Item 15: C: Other Business/MORCA stickers -- We agreed to pursue buying new MORCA stickers similar to MBOSC's (thx Brian)

From last time: AmeriKen currently does nearly all the **Google calendar items**. Darius has given Henri and others calendar permission. Henri will coordinate with Darius to learn how to properly add an event.

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM.