

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Mountain Mikes, Seaside
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 10/16/2016

Attendees: All Directors were present; members/guests included Darius Rike and Gary Courtright.
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 Monday, November 7, 2016** at Mountain Mike's in Seaside.

Next Member Meeting: The quarterly general membership meeting/Annual Meeting is pending. Stay tuned for information.

10/10/2016 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. Opening remarks – a look in the past month
2. FORA/ESCA Update/Fort Ord Reuse
3. County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails
4. Toro Park Issues
5. Trail Work Update
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Pump Track Update
8. Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)
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
15. Other Business – Trash cans for BLM; requests for support; Trails and Greenway conference April 2017; Giving Assistant;
16. New Item—change to Bylaws re unbudgeted expenditures

Item 1: Opening Remarks— October has been busy to date. The big item was **TAKMBD** on October 1; see item 8. We had 130 kids at Ft. Ord travel camp and everyone thought it was the best ever. We also had a successful **Twilight Ride** on October 5 with 46 riders riding to the beat of Joel's Octoberfest oompah music. Brian staffed the MORCA booth at the 4th annual **Cyclovia Salinas** event on October 8 focusing on bike safety and opportunities. Brian compiled a great list of internet resources and local bike shops.

Item 2: FORA-ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The next FORA-ESCA noontime meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2016. 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. MORCA members attended the September 14 FORA-ESCA community meeting on munitions removal. No update since September from the US Army on its burning plans for late 2016 and its proposed Work Plan for BLM Area B. See FORA website (www.fora.org) and www.fora-esca-rp.com. The Army site is www.fortordcleanup.com.

We noted the upcoming ceremonies for the Veteran's Cemetery and the Vet's Health Clinic. Also there is significant action on Monterey Downs being considered by the Seaside City Council (postponed until November 10). The developer reportedly agreed to remove horse racing as an allowed use, but he still plans to build the horse-training track and event center, so the physical imprint and loss of trees would be the same in terms of construction.

Item 3: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA. Nick finally received a written proposed Work Plan from the County on the Trail Signage project, which would go until late 2017. We received approval from the granting agency to extend until December 2017. Joel asked Nick to confirm what a "GPS Locator" is and whether certain tasks can be run concurrently to save time. This will entail stakeholder meetings regarding best trails to stay open or close (which one makes the most sense if close together). Nick has been attending Jane Parker's Hot Topics meetings. This Work Plan is also on the agenda for the **October 24 Fort Ord Committee** meeting.

Item 4: County Update/Toro Park. All trail committee meetings have been cancelled due to the Soberanes Fire. Toro Park should open by November 1 and hopefully the committee will meet again soon thereafter. Note that County staff time is limited and Toro was impacted by trucks.

Item 5: Trail Work Update – September trail day had about 10 people. Next trail day is part of the special event, Public Lands Day, on **Sunday October 23** at the picnic area at bottom of Redrock Trail (we will drive in). See info on Facebook or MORCA website/trailwork. In September, the Board voted to replenish the trail work fund that had been used up with the generous **\$1,000 donation from California Custom Sheds**. This money will be used to feed volunteers, rent equipment, etc. Thank you CCS!!

Item 6: Treasurer's Report and Other Financial – Nick reviewed our current status through October 10, 2016. Due to some significant deposits, we have nearly \$38,900 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,900. As noted in Item #5 above, \$1,000 from California Custom Sheds goes to the trailwork fund. Nick found the **PG&E employee** contact so Henri can write thank you letter for their **donations (totaling more than \$1,200 to date)**. IMBA dues from Sea Otter (2nd quarter) totaled \$1,714 (we have 210 paying IMBA/MORCA members). We received a **\$5,000 check from Bosch** which is set aside for an integrated trail plan design at Toro Park or similar action (from 2016 Sea Otter, we were designated as the recipient by the individual who won the e-bike race). **Donations for TAKMBD included \$500 from Subaru Salinas and \$250 from Carmel Kitchens and Baths**. We also had individual cash donations at TAKMBD and the Twilight Ride. Thank You to all! On the expense side, TAKMBD expenses were \$1,733 with more invoices to come plus donations to the schools who helped run the event. Twilight Ride expenses were \$273. Trail day expenses for August and September were \$205. **Nick and Joel will work on a draft budget** to present to the board at the November 7 meeting.

Item 7: Marina Pump Track – Action on the potential pump track at the Locke Paddon Park site is on temporary hold, but community support will be needed when this goes to the Marina Recreation Commission, Marina City Council and Regional Park District in the next weeks and months for formal approval and integration into park plans. Darius also met with a TAMC staff member. Alex from Action Sports (pump track builder) has been measuring the site and \$1,500 is the estimated cost for design.

Item 8: TAKMBD was October 1, 2016 and a great success with roughly 130 kids participating. We had to change from Toro Park to Ft. Ord/travel camp which has minimal facilities. But many feel it was the best event ever. **Huge thanks to chairperson Sue Benjaram**, who faced extraordinary challenges with the forced change of venue, County staff delays and a ton of unexpected logistics. **Thanks to co-chair Kelly and MORCA Board and members** who took the lead in activities such as food, tables/chairs, ride leaders, skills structures, parking and more. **Big thanks to Keith Defiebre** who greatly helped us with porta-potties, tables and related logistics. **THANKS to Subaru of Salinas for renewing its \$500 donation and Gary Courtright of Carmel Kitchens and Baths for another \$250 donation.** Three high school teams (**Salinas, Palma and Lightfighters Composite**) had kids out in force who worked hard all day. Given the influx of donations (per Item 6), the Board voted unanimously (motion by Phil, second by Sue) to donate \$500 to each high school team (rather than \$750 total). Sue will be writing thank you notes, and we all heard her say she is willing to lead the effort next year! 😊

The one negative was County instruction to charge \$8 per vehicle (like Toro Park) despite providing no staff and no facilities at Ft. Ord. MORCA handled all parking, toilets, tables/chairs, water etc. The County use permit came with parking for 20 vehicles. \$38 was collected on the honor system. The board voted to pay an additional \$336 under protest for an estimated 42 cars. Nick plans to bring this up with Supervisor Parker at her meeting and potentially at the Fort Ord Committee. We strongly feel that charging the same parking fee as Toro for an event at Ft. Ord is unjust given lack of staff services and facilities.

Item 9: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – MPRPD General Manager Rafael Payan previously described their 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). Based on previous statements, MPRPD seems supportive of bikes in the future **Fort Ord Regional Park** concept. MPRPD has signed a Letter of Intent with Monterey County and they are working on a formal Management Agreement. MPRPD would like to see an integrated trails management plan, given the potential FORTAG trail/greenway project, the BLM/Monument trails and the County FORHA trails plan. The Habitat Conservation Plan also affects trail use. We will track this.

Palo Corona Management Plan. A good chunk was burned in the Soberanes fire in July 2016. The status of the Management Plan is uncertain given MPRPD staff resources dedicated to fire remediation.

Note that **Measure E** would partially fund the MPRPD efforts.

Item 10: Calendar Review – Items of note in Fall 2016 include:

October 22 –Honor the Fallen Run/Walk at Fort Ord

October 23 – Public Lands Day volunteer event (Nat'l Monument interior)—MORCA trail day

October 29 – Night Ride kickoff – 2016-2017 night ride permit in progress. Due to higher Ranger presence this year, we all need to have receipts in hand and sign-ins need to be properly monitored.

Nov 10-12—IMBA World Summit, Bentonville AK

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).

(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. We need to get feedback from head coaches on how they would want to handle this.

(3) **Website upgrade**. Darius and committee members met on April 21, 2016 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 about 100 members and have met some nice folks, especially at the Beginner Rides. David Butler also has a large San Jose Meetup group that often comes to Fort Ord.

Item 13: Incorporation -- Joel, Nick and Henri have filed incorporation paperwork with Secretary of State, IRS, Franchise Tax Board and Attorney General/Registered Charities (we await confirmation from Atty. Gen). We are recognized as a California non-profit corporation.

Item 14: Elections for Directors– Nominations were open from early September thru October 10 meeting. Eight people signed up but two rescinded at the last minute. The Board solicited short ballot statements from each candidate. **Ballots and statements will be mailed to IMBA members the week of October 17 with deadline set as the November 7 meeting. Darius Rike** was selected as the Teller to count ballots.

Item 15: A: Other Business/Trash Cans for BLM -- At the October 23 PLD event, Eric Morgan will formally thank MORCA and FORT Friends and pose for photo op with one of the 10 new BLM trash cans/dog poop receptacles plus stickers showing donation by MORCA and FORT Friends. Thanks Brian for leading this effort!! Note new dog-related signage on various trails.

Item 15: B: Other Business/Requests from Margret Davis – Henri noted that volunteers are requested to (a) help with **Referendum effort in the City of Seaside** to overturn pending approval of Monterey Downs; and (b) help call voters to urge them to support Measure X, the TAMC initiative that includes the FORTAG trails and greenway. The Board authorized Henri to write a letter to the editor in support of Measure X on behalf of MORCA.

Item 15: C: Other Business/Trails and Greenway Conference, April 19-21, 2017 -- Joel provided fliers about this conference in Monterey and urged us to come up with a topic for presentation. About 350 folks from all over California will be there. One complicating factor is this is also Sea Otter week (April 20-23, 2017).

Item 15: D: Other Business/Giving Assistant -- We were contacted by the Giving Assistant company, which does an Amazon Smile type service for several hundred businesses. The Board decided not to sign up for this.

Item 16: NEW: Proposed change in Bylaws to raise cap on unbudgeted expenditures – Currently Article 7.2 sets a \$500 limit or 10% of average daily budget, whichever is LESS, for unbudgeted but worthy expenditures. The practical result is that there is a \$500 cap regardless of our funding situation. The Board would like to change this to “whichever is MORE” to facilitate expenditures greater than \$500 when we are flush with funds. This will formally come before the membership at the Annual Meeting.

From Last Time-- Latino Conservation Week is July 15-23, 2017 -- Through FORT Friends, Henri is applying for a grant for a celebration at Fort Ord, similar to Public Lands Day. BLM has indicated support. MORCA members, especially those who speak Spanish, would potentially help by leading rides, setting up a few skills structures for kids; others may have bikes to loan etc. This is in preliminary planning stages and would be part of a national week sponsored by the Hispanic Access Foundation that promotes love of the outdoors and stewardship in the Latino Community. This also would be a great outreach opportunity for more trail work volunteers and MORCA riders.

From Last Time, Helmets for Kids -- Mary Pozzi noticed families at Fort Ord trailheads with kids on bikes without helmets. She will contact Kali and other vendors to see if they can donate or provide at cost kids helmets that we (individual MORCA members) could have on hand in our vehicles to give to kids in need. Great idea Mary!

From previous: AmeriKen currently does nearly all the **Google calendar items**. Darius has given Henri and others calendar permission. We need to learn how to properly add an event.

The meeting ended at 8:15 PM. Busy fall days! Rock on MORCA!!

C:\Users\tom\Desktop\Word Henri\MORCA\Meetings\BoardMeeting\2016\MORCA_BoardSummary_20161010.docx