

**SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Mountain Mikes, Seaside**  
**Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 11/15/2016**

**Attendees:** All Directors were present except for Joel Trice; members/guests included Darius Rike and Lauryn Rigliano.

**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, December 5, 2016** at Turn 12 Restaurant in Monterey. Due to New Years, the meeting will be on January 9, 2017.

**Next Member Meeting: The quarterly general membership meeting/Annual Meeting/Christmas Potluck Gathering is Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 4:30 PM** at the Meadowbrook Tennis Club in Seaside. Stay tuned for information.

**11/7/2016 Agenda Items were as follows: Vice-President Sue Benjaram led the meeting.**

- 1. Opening remarks – a look in the past month**
- 2. Presentation by Families of Color Monterey County**
- 3. FORA/ESCA Update/Fort Ord Reuse**
- 4. County Update/Happy Trails signage/FORHA Trails**
- 5. Toro Park Issues**
- 6. Trail Work Update**
- 7. Treasurer's Report**
- 8. Pump Track Update**
- 9. Take-a-Kid-Mountain Biking Day (TAKMBD)**
- 10. Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD)**
- 11. Calendar Review – what's coming up?**
- 12. 2016 Planning (includes Waiver review and High School Team Fund)**
- 13. Meet-Up**
- 14. Incorporation**
- 15. Election Results**
- 16. Other Business – Mail List Update, Bylaw Change, 2017 events**

**Item 1: Opening Remarks**– Henrietta and Darius described Public Lands Day activities including MORCA's ride and trim. Brian Tomasini was honored by BLM as one of the Volunteers of the Year! Congrats to Brian as being added to the BLM Volunteer Hall of Fame!

**Item 2: Presentation by Families of Color Monterey County**— Lauryn Ricigliano described her group's efforts to get helmets for kids, buy strider-type bikes and offer camps for families, including scholarships for needy families. The Board voted unanimously to donate \$500 for these efforts (motion by Sue, second by Phil) and requested that a report be provided by April 2017. Lauryn asked if MORCA could host more TAKMBD-type events and we explained the major effort that entails. We are open to loaning some of the Kid's Zone easy structures with the proper planning, insurance etc. Darius also described our pump track efforts.

**Item 3: FORA-ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update**— The next FORA-ESCA noontime meeting is scheduled for November 23, 2016 but potentially could be cancelled. FORA-ESCA has distributed

numerous e-mails about the Oak Oval/Parker Flats area near 8<sup>th</sup> and Gigling (south of Gigling) not being open despite “Happy Trails” maps that exist. There has been no action by US Army on its 2016 burning plans or the Work Plan for BLM Area B. See FORA website ([www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org)) and [www.fora-esca-rp.com](http://www.fora-esca-rp.com). The Army site is [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

Monterey Downs (now called by a new name) was approved 3-2 by the Seaside City Council on November 10 with more follow-up action in progress. A referendum effort is underway. When the new council takes office, there could be a reversal. The city will require no horse racing, access trails to the Ft Ord Natl Monument and also a 2-acre interpretive center. There still would be a horse-training track/event center, so the physical impacts to habitat would remain.

**Item 4: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA.** Nick M. met with Nick Nichols of County staff (plus other agency officials) on October 17 to begin implementing the Work Plan for the Trail Signage project, which would go until late 2017. County will meet with BLM re consistent trail numbering. They want a limited number of signs and focus on planned “open” trails for now. Nick M. also met with Supervisor Parker to advise re progress and also brought up the TAKMBD parking issue. Thanks for all your work Nick! The Work Plan was on the agenda for the October 24 Fort Ord Committee meeting, but it was cancelled.

**Item 5: County Update/Toro Park.** No trail committee meetings are scheduled at this time. Phil Craig got the lead “letter to the editor” responding to an anti-bike letter and pointed out that rogue trail builder Gus Long is a trail runner. Hopefully the committee will meet again soon.

**Item 6: Trail Work Update** – October trail day was part of Public Lands Day with about 20 people total. Next trail day is November 19. Watch for posts with more details. In Dec-Jan, Darius hopes to focus on Couch Canyon and realignment of Ewok T43. Thanks again for **\$1,000 donation from California Custom Sheds** to feed volunteers, rent equipment, etc.

**Item 7: Treasurer’s Report and 2017 Budget** – Nick reviewed our status as of Nov. 6, 2016. We have roughly \$37,800 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,900, with \$19,400 in checking. Major expenses were for TAKMBD and trail day. The day of the meeting, we received a check for \$502.55 from MOMBA (the precursor to MORCA that dissolved many years ago). This unexpected windfall was passed on to Families of Color as described in Item #2 above. Henri will write a Thank You letter to MOMBA.  
**Nick presented the draft 2017 budget.** Total expenses, including use of grant funds, are anticipated to be \$22,775. Total income was anticipated to be \$11,555. The Board made some suggested tweaks such as \$100 for FORT Friends membership, clarifying TAKMBD expenses plus \$1500 in donations to the high schools who help with TAKMBD, and reducing travel/conference expenses. The Board unanimously approved the budget, with changes (motion by Henri, second by Sue). The final budget must be approved by membership at our annual meeting/Xmas potluck on December 10.

**Item 8: Marina Pump Track** – Darius described that Alex from Action Sports is working on the conceptual design. 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. The estimated cost for design is \$1,500.

**Item 9: TAKMBD Update**-- Sue Benjaram read nice thank you letters from the three high schools who we gifted with \$500 donations (Salinas, Palma and Lightfighters Composite) for their excellent volunteer work. For next year we want to reduce or eliminate the parking fee at East Garrison if we get no County services or staff. Nick mentioned this to Supervisor Parker that charging the same parking fee as Toro for an event at Ft. Ord is unjust given lack of staff services and facilities.

**Item 10: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District** – Several MORCANs attended the October 25 MPRPD public meeting on the **Palo Corona** Management Plan with the decommissioned Rancho Canada golf course as a major trailhead. We advocated for bike access throughout the park. Henri confirmed that the consultant have the MORCA report that was prepared in 2013. Henri to write a formal letter to MPRPD. There has been no reported action on Park District plans to take over management of **Happy Trails**, Jacks Peak and Toro Park from County. MPRPD seems supportive of bikes in the future **Fort Ord Regional Park** concept. MPRPD would like to see an integrated trails management plan, given the 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. It appears **Measure E** and **Measure X** passed to fund these efforts.

**Item 11: Calendar Review** – Items of note in late 2016 include:

**Nov ?? – Night Ride kickoff** – The Oct 29 event was cancelled due to rain. Light & Motion would like to participate in a replacement event in November at 8<sup>th</sup> and Gigling. Stay tuned. Due to higher Ranger presence this year, we all need to have receipts in hand and sign-ins need to be properly monitored.

**Dec 10—Annual meeting/Christmas Potluck**

**Item 12: 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). The 2017 budget has \$500 budgeted. Individuals may also wish to sponsor a student.

(3) **Website upgrade**. The 2017 budget has \$2000 set aside for this. We discussed whether substantive changes are really needed and the pros and cons of using the current platform or a Wordpress platform.

**Item 13: 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.

**Item 14: Incorporation** -- Joel, Nick and Henri have filed incorporation paperwork with Secretary of State, IRS, Franchise Tax Board and Attorney General/Registered Charities (check not yet cleared from Atty. Gen). We are recognized as a California non-profit corporation.

**Item 15: Election of Directors**-- Ballots and Candidate Statements were sent 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. At the meeting he reported he had received 13 ballots all voting for the 6 candidates for Director. There were no write-ins. **CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUR NEW**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** who will take office in January 2017; they will pick a President and officers at that time. The 2017 directors are: **Sue Benjaram, Gary Courtright, Nick Madronio, Mike McGirr, Henrietta Stern, and Brian Tomasini.**

And a big **Thank You to outgoing President Joel Trice and member-at-large Phil Craig** for your years of service to the club.

**Item 16A: Other Business- mailing lists etc.** Darius noted we have 210 paid IMBA/MORCA members and there are also 600 folks on the “IMBA mail list” (which includes interested non-members). Many IMBA members may designate “do not e-mail” so they do not receive communications. There are 350 folks on the MORCA Google group but only about 25% of these are MORCA members. We have a few hundred “likes” on Facebook. We briefly discussed whether some sort of consolidation or improvement in communication is needed. No action was taken.

**Previous-- 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 voted in October 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/Christmas Potluck on December 10.**

**Previous-- 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). There is also a **Bike Industry Conference** those same days!

**Previous-- 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.

**The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.**

C:\Users\tom\Desktop\Word Henri\MORCA\Meetings\BoardMeeting\2016\MORCA\_BoardSummary\_20161107.docx