

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:00 PM, Turn 12, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 12/7/2016

Attendees: All Directors were present (Sue late due to work); members/guests included Ken Howat, Darius Rike, and members-elect Mike McGirr and Gary Courtright.

2016 Directors: Joel Trice (P), Sue Benjaram (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Phil Craig (MAL) and Brian Tomasini (MAL)

NEW! 2017 Officers/Directors: After the meeting the newly elected Board chose officers for 2017. They are: Gary Courtright (P), Brian Tomasini (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Mike McGirr (MAL) and Sue Benjaram (MAL).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE to outgoing President Joel Trice and Member-at-Large Phil Craig.

Next Board Meeting: The Board meets monthly, usually on the first Monday of the month. **The next meeting is Monday, January 9 at 6 PM** at Turn 12 Restaurant Monterey.

HOLIDAY PARTY/Annual Member Meeting is Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 4:30 PM at the Meadowbrook Tennis Club at 1553 Kimball Ave, Seaside. BYOB and a gift to share that a mountain biker would like (optional). MORCA will provide light refreshments and brats.

CHRISTMAS TREE NIGHT RIDE, Wed Dec 14 rolling at 6:00 PM from 8th and G (6:15 for C group). Light&Motion will be there too. This is a BLM permitted ride with fees, signup etc.

12/5/2016 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. Opening remarks – a look in the past month
2. Welcome newly elected Board members
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. Meet-Up
13. Incorporation
14. Other Business – Mail List Update, Bylaw Change, 2017 events

Item 1: Opening Remarks– Henrietta described the Seaside meeting where Monterey Downs was rescinded and EIR de-certified. City is engaged in General Plan update. Phil noted news articles about certain Senators wishing to reverse National Monument designations made by Obama. Note that County Parks will now be run by County Resource Management Agency (RMA).

Item 2: New Board members are Gary Courtright and Mike McGirr. As shown above, the new board elected officers starting in January 2017.

Item 3: FORA-ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The FORA-ESCA noontime meeting for November 23, 2016 was cancelled; next meeting is in January 2017. Henri mentioned two Oak Woodland workshops she attended that could entail preserving a tree corridor and trails even within the

development parcels. She encouraged Seaside and others to view trees as economic assets. 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) and www.fora-esca-rp.com. The Army site is www.fortordcleanup.com.

Monterey Downs was formally rescinded on December 1, 2016 (see Item 1).

Item 4: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA. Nick Madronio has been very busy coordinating with County and other officials re Happy Trails signage. On November 28, he met with Nick Nichols and other County staff, BLM, fire dept. re details of trails signage (colors, numbering etc). County will only commit to signage for recommended “open” trails in Draft FORHA plan, which does not include several popular trails. They are aware of Fred Watson’s maps and will overlay those trails in to their database. We will need to wait to address errors we believe are in the FORHA draft. Fred Watson has coordinated with Darius re trails names that could be added to various social media map sites. Nick M to meet with County GIS expert in the field to ensure accurate trail locations. County does not plan to print maps at this time as it is possible management could go to Regional Park District in the future. Thanks for all your work Nick, Fred and Darius!

Item 5: County Update/Toro Park. No trail committee meetings are scheduled at this time. Ranger was reported to have contacted rogue trail builder Gus Long in the field. Hopefully the committee will meet again soon.

Item 6: Trail Work Update – November 19 and extra Dec 3 trail days were held. December 17 will focus on Couch Canyon and entail high school students. A culvert at the canyon bottom is possible. Darius to walk the site with coaches beforehand. About 600 hours volunteer anticipated by the end of the year. Watch for posts with more details. In Jan-March, Darius hopes to focus on realignment of Ewok T43 (pending approval by BLM). 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 December 5, 2016. We have roughly \$34,400 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,900, with \$16,500 in checking. Major expenses last month were for final TAKMBD (\$1950), pump track design (\$1500), donation to Family Biking MoCo (\$500) and initial night ride fees (\$470). Major income was Night Ride deposits (\$879).

Nick presented the revised 2017 budget; final to be presented at the Dec 10 annual meeting. Including two tweaks for possible Marina pump track, total expenses, including use of grant funds, are anticipated to be \$22,500. Total income was anticipated to be roughly \$13,000. The roughly \$9,000 difference is due to some funds being received in 2016 and not used until 2017 as well as solid checking account balance. The Board unanimously approved the budget, with changes (motion by Sue, second by Phil).

Item 8: Marina Pump Track –Alex from Action Sports completed the conceptual design. The Marina Recreation Commission will review on Wed Dec 7 at 6:30 PM at 211 Hillcrest Drive. Darius and others plan to attend. Then it goes to Marina City Council and Regional Park District for formal approval and integration into park plans. The estimated cost for construction is \$15,000-30,000.

Item 9: TAKMBD Update—No report. We received a nice Thank You letter from Palma. 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 – Darius emphasized need to attend all MPRPD public meetings on the **Palo Corona** Management Plan with the decommissioned Rancho Canada golf course as a major trailhead. We advocate for bike access throughout the park. Henri to write a draft formal letter to MPRPD for Board review. 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. **Measure E** and **Measure X** passed to fund these efforts.

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

Dec 10—Annual meeting/Christmas Potluck 4:30-7:00 pm (see top page 1)

Dec 14—Christmas night ride/Light&Motion (see page 1 top)

Dec 18—Monterey bike parade rolling at 6 PM from Custom Plaza. Rain cancels.

Item 12: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com We have about 104 members and have met some nice folks, especially at the Beginner Rides. Henri suggested noting the friendly Fort Ord Cycle Paths group as great for beginners.

Item 13: Incorporation -- We are recognized as a California non-profit corporation. Joel, Nick and Henri have filed incorporation paperwork with Secretary of State, IRS, Franchise Tax Board and Attorney General/Registered Charities (we received formal confirmation letter). But Joel needs to revise Tax filing for 2016. Early 2017 tasks include directors update and other required stuff.

Item 14A: Other Business- mailing lists etc. Darius noted we have 213 paid IMBA/MORCA members (the most ever!) 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.

Item 14B: Other Business- Sea Otter Classic. Joel reported that we have confirmed booth #241 next to IMBA for 2017. We also have a great campsite (RV+tent near the entrance kiosk). Ken Howat confirmed we are doing the Dual Slalom volunteering again.

Item 14C: Other Business- MORCA stickers. Brian will order \$250 worth of stickers -- half in black and half in white.

Item 14D: Other Business- Return address stamp. Henri to pursue this at Staples.

Item 14E: Other Business- Ride Leaders at MORCA rides -- Mike noted the need to have committed ride leaders at our Sunday rides, especially at Creekside. Also need to advise folks on website calendar to check Facebook page for last-minute changes. Also post to Facebook or google group if plan to attend.

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.

Previous - 2016 Planning – Three issues listed are: **No action**

(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.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM.