

SUMMARY OF MORCA BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM, Turn 12, Monterey
Prepared by Henrietta Stern, Secretary, on 1/18/2017

Attendees: All Directors were present (except Sue absent due to work); members/guests included Ken Howat, Darius Rike, Phil Craig and Tony Cepeda.

2017 Officers/Directors: Gary Courtright (P), Brian Tomasini (VP), Henrietta Stern (S), Nick Madronio (T), Mike McGirr (MAL) and Sue Benjaram (MAL).

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

1/6/2017 Agenda Items were as follows:

1. **President's Opening Remarks**
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 – major events in 2017**
12. **Meet-Up**
13. **Incorporation**
14. **Other Business – Many topics**

Item 1: Opening Remarks– The meeting opened at 6:00 PM. New President Gary Courtright presided. Henri mentioned possible policy and funding impacts of Trump administration on BLM. Partnerships with groups like MORCA will be even more important.

Item 2: Welcome New Board Members. Gary (“new” himself) welcomed returning directors and new Board member Mike McGirr.

Item 3: FORA-ESCA and Fort Ord Reuse Update— The FORA-ESCA noontime meeting is not being held in January 2017. A schedule will be provided at the end of the month. We briefly discussed the KFOR successful lawsuit re Eastside Parkway and FOR A's future. Henri forgot to mention the County/Seaside Oak Woodland corridor assessment within the development parcels as something to watch over time. The website is: <http://oakwoodlands.org/> and a tentative community meeting is Feb 11 from 10 AM to noon. We noted the February 25 Army bus tour as a calendar item. 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. In the future we will have a separate agenda item on Army activities.

Item 4: County Update/Happy Trails Signage/FORHA. Nick Madronio has been very busy coordinating with County and other officials re Happy Trails signage. Nick drew up a spreadsheet of 168 needed signs for County GIS staff (Jackie Estrada), and noted where County map missed some

well-used trails and connections. County will have simple “C-#” format with odd-even numbers for North-South and East-West. We suggested trail names should also be considered. Note that the FORTAG website has an extensive map of trails with names. County goal is “continued safety of the public on recreational trails” with emphasis on instructional and wayfinding signs. The county mapping does not include all trails in Happy Trails area, but they do not plan to have any “closed” signs either. Posts will be either blue, white or yellow (County’s choice). Recall that County plans to hand over trail management to the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District in the future.

Item 5: County Update/Toro Park. No trail committee meetings have been scheduled since June 2016 and County has been silent, likely due to reorganization of Parks to RMA, Soberanes fire, funding issues etc. County Ranger was reported to have contacted rogue trail builder Gus Long in the field and cited him. MORCA does not support bikers riding unlawfully in Toro, especially in rain-sensitive areas like Marks Canyon. MORCA hopes the Trail Committee will meet again but it may be awhile. **The Board concurred that MORCA should make an effort to help jump-start the process** by internally brainstorming concepts for a comprehensive trails plan and inviting informal discussion of these ideas by other committee members. Darius, Ken C, Phil and Sue (Phil often hikes and Sue walks dogs at Toro).

Item 6: Trail Work Update – December 17, 2016 had 54 MORCANs plus high schoolers working on Couch Canyon. A culvert at the canyon bottom is possible. About 600 hours volunteer hours anticipated by the end of the year (need number). January 15, 2017 was first trail day working on the realignment of **Ewok T43 with 16 folks. This is a big job with two trail days per month scheduled through May—First Sunday at noon and Third Saturday at 9 AM.** The “PO Busters” will clear the poison oak branches before trail days to reduce PO issues with volunteers. Darius and Henri to work on fliers to put on vehicles parked at trailheads. Gary to print. **California Custom Sheds (CCS)** donated \$1,000 in mid-2016 to feed volunteers, rent equipment, etc. CCS again donated another \$500 as an end-of-year gift for trail workers. Thanks again!!

Item 7: Treasurer’s Report and 2017 Budget – Nick reviewed our status as of Jan 9, 2017. We have roughly \$34,790 in combined assets. The grant savings account for trail signage project is \$17,901, with \$16,889 in checking. Major expenses last month were trail day expenses (\$500), night ride fees to BLM (\$200), and new batch of MORCA stickers (\$143). Major income was Night Ride deposits (\$208), IMBA dues (\$547) and donations (\$512), primarily from CCS. In addition we learned of PG&E employee continued support (\$670) and Darius donation of \$500 toward pump track (see below). Thank you to all.

Item 8: Marina Pump Track proposed for Locke Paddon – Darius and other MORCANs attended Marina Recreation Commission on Dec 7, 2016 and have been interacting with Mayor Delgado plus concerned citizens who are opposed to the Locke Paddon site. Commission meeting in January was postponed. Darius will lead an effort to: (1) create an FAQ, and describe how concerns are being addressed; (2) create a brief slide presentation on why Locke Paddon is the best site; (3) provide accurate pictures of other similar pump tracks to distinguish from a full bike park or BMX track; (4) encourage support letters plus funding for planting native species at the site; and (5) provide statistics about accidents etc at other pump tracks. Stay tuned for future meetings when your support is needed. The estimated cost for construction is \$15,000-30,000.

Item 9: TAKMBD Update— We began discussing raffle bike and Brian will check re possible options with Bobcat; Tony to check with Rooster Bikes. For next year we want to reduce or eliminate the parking fee at East Garrison if we get no County services or staff. We need to start sooner rather than later laying groundwork.

Item 10: Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District – Ken Chrisman attends all MPRPD public meetings that may affect bike access, especially 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.

Item 11: Calendar Review – Major events in 2017 include:

April 20-23—Sea Otter Classic. Ken Howat is lead; new SOC volunteer coordinator is Teresa Harrison. Volunteer signup will be electronic this year. We will marshal dual slalom again (Slalom now runs Fri-Sat-Sun but Enduro is Thursday). Gary to call Skip Latham re Enduro responsibility. Joel (from Dec 2016 meeting) reported that we have confirmed booth #241 next to IMBA for 2017. We have campsite near the entry kiosk.

April 19-21 – Calif. Trails and Greenway Conference, Monterey (see page 4)

May—Old Cabin Classic (MBOSC at Wilder)

Late May/early June—possible trip to Durango

July 15-23—Latino Conservation Week (possible ride, trailwork etc) at Fort Ord

Late October – Public Lands Day and Night Ride Kickoff

Unscheduled—Laguna Seca Twilight Ride

See Nick for other out-of-state races!

Item 12: MeetUp.com Hosting -- Sue has been posting MORCA rides and events on the MeetUp.com. We have 112 “members” and have met some nice folks, many from out-of-area. Henri noted it is important to have MORCAN leaders on days where Meetup folks have RSVP’d attendance.

Item 13: Incorporation -- We are recognized as a California non-profit corporation by Secretary of State, IRS, Franchise Tax Board and Attorney General/Registered Charities. Gary to check with Joel re revised Tax filing for 2016. Henri to check on 2017 filing tasks (new directors). Gary said his business address can be the new contact site.

Item 14A: Other Business—Board Meeting Scheduling. Sue asked when to postpone and when to retain scheduled meeting if President can’t make it. **The Board agreed that we should keep a scheduled meeting and have VP conduct the meeting unless the President specifically requests that a meeting be postponed so he can attend.**

Item 14B: Other Business- Little Bella request for skill structures. Darius is willing to meet Bella reps at the storage facility but they are responsible to transport structures, set up and return. We will need to coordinate liability waivers etc.

Item 14C: Other Business--Website upgrade. The 2017 budget has \$2000 for this. Darius noted Ian Furgeson is willing to help with Wordpress version so board members can post news. Darius asked what else is needed on website re function. He and Ian will handle look and feel.

Item 14D: Other Business-- E-mail lists etc. In December 2016, Darius noted we have 213 paid IMBA/MORCA members and there are also 600 folks on the "IMBA mail list" (which includes interested non-members. 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. **The Board agreed that we should shut down the Google Group and use reloaded IMBA list for monthly e-newsletter or important blasts.**

Item 14E: Other Business- MORCA stickers are here. Brian received our stickers -- half in black and half in white. Come get one!

Item 14F: Other Business- MORCA Trailworker Shirts. We concurred they should stay the same. Darius and Brian to inventory what we have and contact eligible workers on their needs.

Item 14-G: Other Business-- Waivers --Nick is checking with insurance company to see if new waivers for 2017 are needed. Brian has master notebook and has looked at various examples.

Previous -- 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-- Trails and Greenway Conference, April 19-21, 2017 -- we have fliers about this conference in Monterey. 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! Are we able to have booth or make a presentation?

Previous-- Latino Conservation Week is July 15-23, 2017 -- Via FORT Friends, Henri applied 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 is also an outreach opportunity for more trail work volunteers.

Previous-- Return address stamp. Henri to pursue this at Staples.

Previous-- High school team fund/scholarship (example: bike or race fees for deserving student). The 2017 budget has \$500 budgeted. Individuals may also wish to sponsor a student.

The meeting ended at 8:02 PM.