

Meeting Minutes
Tallahassee Mountain Bike Association
Tallahassee Chapter of SORBA/IMBA

Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Higher Ground Warehouse
7:30 PM – 8:45 PM

- The first item of business concerned nominations and elections for new club officers. The following positions were nominated, seconded and elected:

President: Ken Foster	Treasurer: Karen Loewen
Vice-President: Jose Sanchez	Secretary: Dixie Davis
 - Next, Jose Sanchez brought up the Fern Trail Work Day scheduled for Saturday, 11/14 from 9am - Noon. It was discussed that parking will be at Weems Road and that spades, loppers and swing blades are needed. Ken explained that Chuck Goodheart will bring tools and that he will be setting up a storage space near the Piney Z. trail that will be used for the club's equipment. Karen mentioned that she will create an event on Facebook. The Miccosukee Greenway event was also discussed. Ken stated that he was trying to find out more information about it and Karen offered to help with the event.
 - A quick side topic regarding the club's general communication plan was started by Ken. He maintained that the website (www.tallahasseemountainbike.com) should be used as the repository for all club information and other vehicles, such as tal-rides and Facebook, should be used for dissemination of events and other information.
 - A suggestion to schedule a quarterly work day was discussed next. Ken suggested that this topic be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
 - Establishing a regular meeting date was the next topic and Ken asked for suggestions for different venues. No new meeting places were offered and the group decided that meetings for the club will now be held on the fourth Wednesday of every month from 7:30pm-8:30pm at the Uptown Cafe'.
 - Club marketing and the promotional cards were the next topics of discussion. Ken asked for suggestions on what should be printed on the cards. Presently the cards have a logo developed by Cliff Leonard with the URL for the TMBA website on the front. Bert mentioned that he felt it was important to note the percentage of the SORBA membership fee that filtered through to the club. Mike McCue stated that he would put that information on the club website. Ken noted that if one goes to SORBA's site to provide additional monies, there is the possibility the funds will not go directly to our club. The group decided that the following should be placed on the cards:
 - Club logo and website on the front;
 - Information on the Facebook group on the back with some sort of exhortation to join, such as, "Support your local trails by joining SORBA"; and,
 - A statement about checking the website for meeting dates and information on work days.
- Ken mentioned that he will ask Cliff to update the cards and he stated that then we could take some of the perforated cardstock he had brought and use it to print the cards off for distribution by club members. Bert Thornton offered to keep the local bike shops supplied

with the cards. He also will buy plastic card holders and Ken mentioned he can be reimbursed for that expense.

- Ken provided an update on the status of the club logo and banner. He explained that Cliff is in the process of creating something similar to the current art work on the club's website and promotional cards.
- The Trail Report System was the next topic of discussion. Ken provided background on the topic by explaining that the city has a report system on their website (talgov.com) that allows a rider to comment on a city trail. Ken further explained that if the club can establish a similar system that will require designating a liaison for each trail, the club could then potentially approach land managers in the future with requests for new trails and existing trail additions. Several suggestions for how the system should work were discussed. Chris Judd suggested updating the website with a table that listed specific email contacts and required information for each trail. Mike Hernandez suggested creating a simple link or button on the website that will allow trail users to report a problem. The link/button should send an email to one person and that person would handle communicating with the necessary parties. Dixie Davis suggested setting up forums for each trail and Mike McCue said that would be possible, but the website's current process for forum registration was a bit convoluted. He suggested looking into a database solution for the reporting system. Corky Shuetz suggested we place signs at trail heads which provide users with information on how to report problems via the club website. Ken suggested we table the discussion for the next meeting.
- A short discussion on the RFP for the City's Magnolia trail project was held next. Jose asked whether there would be input and it was mentioned that the Magnolia trail would be completely revamped.
- Ken next read excerpts from Linc Clay's update on the Munson Hills/Twilight/Forest Service Contract. The update information came from email communication with Jim Schmid of the US Forest Service and from Jim Schmid's blog (<http://munsontwilightmtnbiketrails.blogspot.com/>)

Portions of Linc Clay's email are provided below:

"He (Jim Schmid) reports that they expect to receive Valerie's assessment any day. They are working on a contract package parallel to Valerie's work. The contract package should be at the USFS regional office by November 23rd. They (I assume the regional office) will have 90 days to award the contract.

The "soil samples" are actually archaeologist borings.

Jim's blog mentions that

- * Valerie's draft assessment was received October 5th;
- * The biologists and archaeologists surveyed the trail to evaluate the assessment recommendations,
- * The USFS biologists and archaeologists want the trail re-routes further away from the ponds; and
- * The assessment will be posted on the blog when it is delivered.

- The SORBA Regional Meeting will be held on November 21st in Gainesville, GA. Ken will be attending.

- The beginner rides and social rides were the next and final topics of discussion for the night's meeting.
 - Tim Murphy suggested that the beginner rides be couched as clinics. Jose mentioned that due to less daylight now, the weekends were best for scheduling beginner rides. Karen maintained that the beginner rides should be separate from the social rides. Once a month was suggested as the frequency and the first Sunday of the month at 10am were set as the day and time for the beginner rides. The next one is scheduled for the BMX Track at Tom Brown Park on 12/6 @ 10am. Jose suggested that his email list of interested beginners should be shared with John Kalin and Ken Foster.
 - Social rides were tabled for discussion at the next meeting though several attendees wanted to schedule another full moon ride. Chris Neal offered to determine the date of the next full moon.

In attendance:

Dixie Davis
Ken Foster
Glen Gifford
Mike Hernandez
Chris Judd

Karen Loewen
Gia McCue
Mike McCue
Tim Murphy
Chris Neal

Bob Pope
Tom Proctor
Jose Sanchez
Corky Schuetz
Bert Thorton

Report prepared by Dixie Davis and reviewed by Ken Foster.