G.H.O.R.B.A.

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 20, 2025
Location: Spaghetti Western, TC Jester

Board Member Attendance:

Board Member	X if present	If absent, was a report submitted?	Board Member	X if present	If absent, was a report submitted?
Ben Drews -President	x		Liz Woodrow- Race Director		no
Linda Jordaan - Vice President	x		Dan Hellner- Sergeant at Arms to Comms Director	x	
Sunny Oliver- Treasurer OUTGOING	x		Derek Heaton- IT Director OUTGOING		no
Kristi Vecellio- Secretary	x		Paul Schultz- Director at Large OUTGOING	x	
Kevin Highfield- Advocacy Director	x		David Cervera- Director at Large to Trails Director	x	
Scott- Dammitt- Trails Director OUTGOING		no	Lisa Biem- Director at Large		yes
Maiella Cunningham- Events Director	x		David Ruiz- Director at Large		n/a
Carlos Caicedo- Communications Director- OUTGOING		no	Emmanuel Rolland-Piegue- IT DIRECTOR INCOMING	x	
Gibran (Ace) Tejada - Treasurer INCOMING	x		Brad Cowan- AT LARGE DIRECTOR, INCOMING		n/a
			Total Board Members Present:		
Additional Attendees: Tristan Meadows					
Prior Month Meeting Minutes Approved? no, Jan Minutes and by-law revision votes are postponed to March					

Reports and Meeting Notes

General Updates from President and Executive Committee Reports

a. **News**
   i. Tristan Meadows is interested in the open At Large seat
      1. Board voted to accept him and discussed role of At-Large Director with him
      2. We will need to announce his appointment and have him write up his personal information as other candidates did.
   ii. CCMTB comments (re Facebook/Tractor/Raffle)

a. Ben explained 501c3 laws and that spending needs to be well-documented, represent the interests of the bigger organization, and there were questions about a tractor because it could not be used in most trail systems, the high level of liability, etc. Scott was reportedly asked for a proposal for the board to vote on this purchase in 2024. It was never brought to GHORBA for a vote. The $12,000 is still ear-marked for CCMTB, but no one has requested to utilize it yet.
b. Trail steward from CCMTB, Tristan, expressed some of the possible needs at CCMTB including signage and fixing erosion along the creek.

b. **celebration**s
   i. New board members in attendance and introductions made

c. Governance update
   i. Bylaws
      1. Vote to adopt postponed so we have time to review updates from
         a. Ace
         b. Emmanuel
      2. Goal is still to release them to public at the end March after a board vote on 3/20.
      3. Committee will meet again to draft any revisions asap (Dan, Ace, Linda, Ben, Kristi, Emmanuel)

d. Finance report
   i. 180000 TPWD Grant- annual renewal is expired, Dan and Sunny will take care of renewal
   ii. minimal ins/outs since last month
   iii. Paid expenses from Steve Booker and ground soil samples
   iv. Sunny and Ace will work on transitioning accounts in coming weeks, need copy of minutes for the bank.

e. Advocacy Update

HCFCD: I (Kevin) followed up with them following their removal of features at CCMTB during 18 - 21 February. We have discussed and issued an update on this. They say they are still working on an agreement.

SHNF: The Forest Service said “no” on both the Sam Houston Trail grant and the small project to work on important connections. Note that the grant would be done by the Sam Houston Trails Coalition (SHTC) and they supported it. Meanwhile, volunteers have gone out and cleared the connections to allow safer access across the central part of the forest.

SHTC: Associated with the above, the SHTC have been really helpful - leading an effort (partly paid for by GHORBA) to engineer a solution for the NWCC Trail bridge repair.

Woodlands: I (Kevin) and Kristi attended an open meeting organized by “Bike The Woodlands”, which was useful - it was attended by The Woodlands Township Parks Department, BLC, Eric Heffen from HC P3. As a follow up we will work with all of the above on how the Spring Creek Greenway paved trail will impact the Spring Creek Nature trail. HCP3 are going ahead with construction from the western end down to Rob Fleming park.

Kristi: Additional info on Woodlands meeting: It was called for purposes of Bike the Woodlands gaining a greater understanding of how stakeholders use the trails, to hear what the perceived concerns and hopes are from the various groups of trail users, and to collaborate on how various groups can work together in the future. The invitees included the public officials Kevin mentioned above as well as bike shop owners/workers, NICA coaches, trail stewards for Flintridge and SCNT, and various other community members.

f. Trails Update

A. David C presented a proposal related to a recent incident at The Anthills

1. kids burned down equipment and pump and tools to maintain the Dirt Jumps
2. Requesting 1000 to recover damages
3. Board Voted to meet this request

B. LISA: HSP would like to have 2 loads of road base at Jeff's house for trail work. We have miles of new trails that need to armored with water bars "berms"
    1. Board voted to approve. HSP can submit for reimbursement
C. next work party at HSP is march 8 @ 9 am : I (Lisa) am creating event I will send to GHORBA to push to all socal outlets
D. HSP is back open for riding and you can make your way all the way around. I believe it is 9 miles now.
E. After the Trails Director talks with Jeff (trail Steward) I (Lisa) can plan a welcome back ride for this trail through GHORBA
F. Lisa and Ben to digitize waiver and TPWD grant and tracking the volunteer hours
    1. we can get grant money
    2. we can show precincts what we are doing

Old Business

G. A Dig the Roots needs to be set

Additional Director Reports and Committee Updates (old and new business)

- Race Update
    A. We will be back at the original location and not the dog park
    B. Liz and Ben meeting with Shottenkirk tomorrow (2/21/25)
    C. All who are able to help with the race should reach out Liz to help her
    D. Same profit sharing agreement with FBMBA- 2 year agreement

- Events Update
    A. West Houston Trailfest March 22nd
        1. Dirt Sisters Event Schedule Trail Fest 2025
        2. Brandi Greathouse is going to help with the ride clinic, coordinating with Lisa, we should push this out on socials after the event to show we are getting ROI from scholarships we donated.
        3. We need help with a schedule of events and pushing out the ads, someone to monitor the waivers, signage, SCHEDULE
        4. **Have we been advertising this yet?**
            a. **Ben stated that it will be up before next week**
    2. Timberlane April 26th
        1. Paul will verify date
    3. Sugarland Classic May 3-4
    4. Welcome to Double Lake June 7th
    5. Lake Houston, Sept 13
    B. Event Sheets Status update
        1. Ben is sending each person their event sheet for events through May- **Status update?**
    C. Retreat update: April 5, Memorial Park

- Communications
    A. Ideas for SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. Kristi to complete run of Volunteer posts with updates and thank yous for Huntsville and C57- Lisa getting info about volunteers. What else do we want to include (core sampling, how GHORBA stewards help NWCC and SHTC?)
2. Share complete list GHORBA board members

B. Ben may have shadow writer to assist Dan
C. Newsletter Status update
   1. Goal is 1x/quarter- end of March**- are we on track?**

- Membership Update
  A. Need to outline next steps once new By-laws are in place

- IT Update
  A. Emmanuel has created a document where you can request website updates/changes Web site changes - Feb 08

Director at Large updates/comments - none

Other Committee Reports

Dirt Sisters

carry over From 1/30/2025

- Group Ride Update: We have changed the format. We will have a once a month group ride at all the different trails. We will also have a once a month ride to a trail not with in out system (Warda, Rocky Hill Ranch, etc)
- Plan for Coaching Clinics: I have coached a few ladies already. I plan on having a beginner class in the next few months.
- I am also going to have a few classes talking about Racing, nutrition, and on trail fix maintenance class.

GNARkids

Carryover from 1/30/25

- GnarAnts Season starting at the Anthills on March 24th
- Working on the website

New Business

- Linda shared thoughts on first aid proposal and will share more next meeting
- Anthills work party- details to come

Close meeting

- Restate/Determine Priority Action items for the month and work time during this meeting
  - SLC
  - COMMUNICATIONS!!
  - TPWD grant renewal and volunteer hours tracking
  - Trail Fest March 22
  - Change over to new board and board retreat

- Confirm next meeting date
  - March 20th
  - Kristi already confirmed

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Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes