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

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18th, 2024 7PM to 9PM

Address: Saffron Indian Kitchen, 8045 North Sam Houston Pkwy W, Houston, Tx 77064

Attendees:

Board:

- Ben Drews- President
- Linda Jordaan - Vice President
- Sunny Oliver - Treasurer
- Kristi Vecellio - Secretary - Absent
- Kevin Highfield- Director of Advocacy and Outreach - Absent
- Derek Heaton - Director of IT
- Scott Dammitt - Trails Director
- Maiella Cunningham - Events Director
- Carlos Caicedo- Communications Director - Absent
- Vacant - Race Director
- Dan Hellner - Sergeant at Arms - Absent
- Liz Woodrow - Membership Director
- Paul Schultz – Director at Large (Timberlane)
- David Ruiz – Director at Large (Anthills) - Absent
- David Cervera - Director at Large (Anthills)
- Lisa Biem - Director at Large (Huntsville, C-57)

Guests:

Attendance:

Present / Board Members / Have Quorum

Agenda

- Approve prior meeting minutes (Nov, Jan, Feb, March)

Approved

- Does anyone have questions on this month's submitted reports?

No

- Vote on Top 3 Goals for the year from this list. Kristi will set up online voting after the group has a chance to discuss and possibly modify this list on 4/18.

1. Update and improve mission, vision, core values, conduct standards, bylaws
2. Improve Outreach: establish newsletter, improve website (list action items), improve social media presence (list action items)
3. Complete new membership structure transition
4. Working toward more Sanctioned Trails- working with county, precincts, etc.
5. Improve event planning: increase the number and quality of major events, better event planning and promotion
6. Increase grassroots community Building: more work parties and group ride participation and facilitation

Sunny mentions that “improve mission, vision, core values, conduct standards, bylaws” needs to happen and cannot be an option (internal board priority). ByLaws are outdated. Other board members agree. Second is the membership restructuring, we will vote on two more.

- Director Reports:
  - Treasurer Update
  - Communications Update

  Update thru Maiella: Carlos is planning a monthly newsletter. Sunny explains that he doesn’t need to come up with the content. All members should share pictures and some verbiage after certain events and send this to Carlos asap.
  - Events Update
    A. Sugarland Classic
       1. SLC 2024 Event Sheet 1-1-2024.xlsx- need board members to volunteer for jobs on this list in the WHO IS BRINGING WHAT SECTION
       2. SLC RACE ACTION LIST
          - need people to be in charge of maintaining supply of ice/water throughout the weekend
          - need trailer load and deliver and return people
          - Need a non-drinker to be in charge of a 2nd side by side (w/Charles Stephens from FBMBA on the first)
          - asking GHORBA/FBMBA to sponsor kid zone

          BikePalooza is 3rd weekend in May (same weekend as Warda race)
          June 1st: Trail Party Fontenot (new trail steward, Scooter (David Healey), Ben and Maielle will be responsible for event, get FB event up asap)

  - Membership Update
    A. Current Members - 326
    B. Last Month - 342
    C. Email should go out this month regarding bylaw change so that after the race we can get started on the membership change and new focus going forward.
    D. Carlos to help work on putting together a plan for digital material for the switchover.
    E. Electronic card created for Patrons going forward as well.

  - Advocacy Update
    - HCFCD agreement update: Ben and I will give an update.
    - Forest Service: Nothing heard on the new trails project. It’s been more than one year and despite several reports from the District Ranger that he was close to giving an opinion, we are still waiting
    - TPW Grant - I am way behind on working up a budget for us to proceed. I hope I can get to this soon.
    - Ben will have a few other things to add - Anthills & Precinct 4; Precinct 1 contact.

- Derek makes a motion to send an official letter to Flood Control that we don't accept the agreement. Unanimously accepted. Ben will use Kevin's version, but make it a bit shorter.

- Trails
  A. GHORBA is once again sending a letter of support to Galveston county to provide materials for several bridges that need to be replaced at Jack Brooks Park. This is in lieu of a land use and maintenance agreement due to lack of insurance.
  B. Planning upcoming training for stewards and interested board members: first aid/CPR, trail maintenance, trail building with light equipment, Sawyer certification and potentially a master naturalist course.
  C. Additional trail builder packs have been purchased and mostly distributed, a few remain but will be distributed soon.
  D. Equipment checks and inventory are ongoing at all trails, preparing for lots of deadfall trees in the coming months due to the heavy drought last summer. We expect to spend an additional $1000-1200 to replace or repair equipment to good working order. Pruning shears, hand saws, and hedge trimmers are needed.
  E. We've begun testing the first round of first aid kits for stewards and interested board members to accompany the upcoming anticipated first aid training.
  F. Our sponsor Pentex Landscape Company provided 6 PPE (personal protective equipment) kits for chainsaw operators at no charge. The kit includes head, eye, ear, hand and leg protection chaps.
  Pentex, has given us free tools for the last years for up to about 5000 USD in value, we should consider given him the recognition he deserves:
  Action: Communications director?
  G. GHORBA Trails Director and Mandi Rogers met with City of Conroe Parks Director and Bayou Land Conservancy staff for a walk through of BLC property adjacent to Owen Park. BLC and Park officials gave verbal green light to begin the planning phase of trail expansion.
  H. In anticipation of the new trail and the recent onboarding of two new trail stewards, several of the IMBA Trails Solutions & Bike Parks books were purchased and will be provided to stewards and interested board members.
  I. Scott motions for 1500 USD spending for stewards due to drought and now removing dead trees, unanimously supported by the attending members
- IT
  A. Website moved to a new host.
  B. More users were given access to add Calendar items.
  C. If anyone else wants to be in the IT committee, please let me know by Monday, 4/15/24 and I will add you. We will have a committee meeting to
     1. go over all items that need to be corrected on the website
     2. get people on the IT committee access to resources they need so we have backup
     3. discuss items that fall under the IT umbrella and start writing manuals for all of these.

- Committees
    A. Dirt Sisters
        1. Lisa designed a T-shirt and stickers and we have them in our possession for sale
        2. Shirts store is open for Jerseys
            1. https://jakroo.com/store-front?storeId=ByMAERvoT…
        3. Lisa is holding Bike Maintenance class at her home on April 20th
            1. Does Lisa need any support for this event?
        4. Cantu has partnered with Dirt sisters for SLC pre-ride, a co-ed, but with ladies highlighted, event
            1. WE NEED STUFF FROM STORAGE SATURDAY AFTERNOON for this event WHO CAN HELP Liz and/or Kristi?

- Old Business
    - Proposal from 3rd party company on 501c growth and profitability

⇒ Not moving forward, we will update the ByLaws without the advisor, it is very pricey.

    - How we develop committees in 2024

Summary of committees

Executive committee Chair: Ben (needs 5th person, President will only vote in case of tie, advocacy board member added)
Trail committee Chair: Paul (trail stewards)
Dirt Sister committee Chair: Lisa
GnarKids committee Chair: Linda
Race Committee Chair: Liz
IT committee Chair: Derek
Finance committee Chair: Sunny
Governance committee Chair: Ben (prepare transition documents for board position)

Action: Every Chair to complete complete committee participant list for organizational purposes (VP will send the link)

    - Nicole and Lisa and Reimbursement for scholarship?

⇒ Lisa is going next month in Bentonville
⇒ Ask Nicole if she can postpone or send someone else in her place (Lisa)
⇒ Brandi is likely going in September

    - Dirt Sisters jersey (can we still get ordered?)

⇒ Liz will order asap

    - New IT committee (Scott, Maiella, Linda, Carlos,Lisa to be added), Emmanual will take over next year
        1. Send Derek all Biking events (temporary solution)

2. Agree on how to use the google calendar, so we can all easily post events (Scott said he will help)
3. Update board members
4. Add Trailforks membership perk on ghorba.org

- New Business
    1. Decide who is doing what for SLC (see committee section above)

⇒ Suzannah Smiles trailer is available, Ben will pull trailer, fill up on Thursday and put at someone house, bring to event area on Friday
⇒ need presence at GHORBA tent at all times, not one person, take turns
Action: create signup sheet for availabilities, take turns during the day
⇒ Scott mention the tax offset, can help shops

    2. HSP taking control of work parties,

- Jeff is not doing it anymore
- Shred de Roots will be going to a new locations, HSP not available (race is Sep 29). Plan Dig de Roots soon.
    1. GHORBA 2024 Newsletter
        1. Here is a complete newsletter by Lisa. We need to get out last year's news first but then this is ready to go out after editing and an example of what we should be doing monthly? quarterly? THANK YOU LISA
            1. Sample Newsletter by Lisa 2024.pdf
        2. Lisa is willing to do the letter.
    2. Vote to approve funding pizza and drinks for junior racers Kid Zone at SLC on Saturday, ideally split with FBMBA (but they may say no)
       ⇒ Linda makes motion, everyone follows

New business for next meeting: discuss raffle ethics next time