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

Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 16th, 2023 7PM to 9PM

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

Attendees:

Board:

- Dennis D. Duarte- President
- Russell Mester - Vice President (Not Present)
- Sunny Oliver - Treasurer
- Benjamin Drews - Secretary
- Kevin Highfield- Director of Advocacy and Outreach (Not Present)
- Derek Heaton - Director of IT
- Scott Dammit - Trails Director
- Amanda Williams-Events Director
- Liz McCain Woodrow - Communications Director
- Wade Greathouse - Race Director
- Linda Jordaan - Membership Director
- Paul Schultz – Director at Large (Timberlane) (Not Present)
- David Ruiz – Director at Large (Anthills)
- Kristi Vecellio- Director at Large (Cypresswood)
- Joseph Hood - Director at Large (Memorial Park) (Not Present)

Guest:

- None

Attendance:

11 Present / 11 Board Members / 11 Voting Members

Have Quorum

Agenda

- Director and Committee Reports:
  A. Treasurer Update
  B. Race Update
  C. Trails Updates
  D. Communications Update
  E. Events Update
  F. Membership Update
  G. Advocacy Update
  H. IT

- Old Business
- New Business

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Treasurer Update:

- Current Balance Sheet
    - chase account has been reviewed this month for accuracy and activity
        - Account balance will not be displayed in MM going forward based on legal advice, balance can be provided upon request from members
    - Paypal account balance, last month = $2,270, this month = $3,108
        - $65, $50, $35, $25 charges
        - Membership renewal via paypal?
    - Cash Box balance, $463
- Status of activities
    - Incoming paypal - 6+ membership renewals
    - Donations - none
    - Trail Expenses - $150 Flint Ridge, $175.67 Cypress Creek
    - Events - none
    - Membership -
    - Merchandise - none
    - Advocacy - $93.97, meeting with FBMBA discussing 2024 Sugarland Classic Race
    - Unbudgeted - none
- Grant Solicitation
    - Hurricane Harvey Trail Restoration Grant - SAMS account up to date, new versions of forms sent out for update
    - No contact this month other than e-mails

Race Update:

- Negotiations with FBMBA for Sugar Land Classic

Trails Update:

- TrailForks is offering 30% off memberships for those who use our unique link, in addition, they will pay GHORBA $5 per membership received from that link at no cost to us. This link can be shared on our website, social media and membership communications, and virtual promotional materials are provided. We will provide the link to all as soon as it is set up and available for use.
- Dig De Roots is Sept 9 and Shred De roots is October 10.
- Most work crews are taking some time off due to excessive heat, and those still participating in outdoor activities are advised to take extra precautions to hydrate.

Communications Update:

- We are currently in the process of purchasing promotional materials, displays, table cloths, etc for GHORBA and community events to increase outreach opportunities.
- Newsletter is in the process. Thank you Ben and Sunny for submissions. Would like to request short articles from IT, and Advocacy.
- Who is running for next year will be identified and will be announced for next year.

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Events Update:

- Fonteno Trail Party on October 7th
- Dig De roots is scheduled for 10 Sep 2023. Work structure for the event still needs tweaking. Add Jeff Kraft and Lisa Co-event coordinator.
- December 2nd will be Members Meeting/ need to confirm venue now so we can get out the word
- December HSP Centennial
- January for Fonteno

Membership Update:

- 540 members currently
- Working on updated agreement with SPOT
- TrailForks update by Scott

Advocacy Update:

- HCFCD: I spoke with Jeremy Phillips this afternoon. The agreement is still in development, though he is waiting to see what happens with P4 and Anthills (Ben will brief you on that). He is pushing P3 to take the same path - which is pretty profound. Meanwhile, he emphasized the importance of us continuing to keep the trails maintained and safe. If hazards crop up, make sure they are effectively blocked off. P3 - I've had no contact with them, but will try to speak with them next week

- Cypresswood Trail: Jeremy told me they have funding for 2 of the 3 basins and he will schedule an update meeting with us very soon. Note that it is the biggest basin that they do not have funded, which is better than what we'd heard previously

- SHNF: We've had some good work parties in the forest over the last month, clearing out overgrown forest roads - with the support of the SHTC and the FS. The FS are still working on getting us an answer on proceeding with the project to open up the short sections east and west of HSP. I spoke with the District Ranger at the SHTC meeting last Saturday and I am hoping he can get permission under a "Categorical Exclusion" - that's a by-pass of the NEPA requirements due to the limited scope. The good thing is, that we seem to be getting some momentum on cycling projects in the forest. I want to keep pushing and move towards the grander plan for much more access and trails in the forest.

- TPWD RTP Grant: I chased up last month and apparently they were waiting on us to submit a form - Sunny and I missed that. The form has now been submitted and that's the last thing before they issue the formal Grant Contract - which should be in "three to four weeks" (as of last week). Hopeful this will finally come to fruition.

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IT Update:

- **Website is still in process**
- **Neon assistance on support for API**

OLD Business

NO OLD BUSINESS

NEW Business

1. Discussion on hiring a race promoter. RE-Postponed to next meeting.
2. Voted to remove PayPal as a payment method going forward due to issues with neon.

Talking Points :

Weekly Kids rides:

- Currently the following trail systems have weekly kids group rides: Sugarland (Sat AM), Anthills (Mon PM), Cypresswood (Tue PM), Bridgeland (Thu PM, alternates with Cypresscreek location), Pearland is starting
- Following Trail systems are consolidating forces and will organize the winter Sunday afternoon rides alternating (based on location), when evening rides are too dark: Pearland, Sugarland, Anthills, Bridgeland, Cypresscreek and Cypresswood
- The idea is there to have ladies group ride parallel with the Sunday kids rides