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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association November 19, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on November 19, 2005 at the Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting commenced at 1:10 p.m.

See attached document for those members present. It was noted that there were no representative present from the Piedmont Area Singletrack Alliance. All other chapters had a voting member present.

Keith Owen called the meeting to order, briefly introduced himself, and asked for the Board and attending SORBA members to introduce themselves.

A new chapter petition was put forth by Ken Camp from Asheville, North Carolina. This petition was to start a new SORBA club from the ground up, but 33 people attended a recent meeting. Further discussion ensued on existing Asheville cycling clubs. Bill Camp made a motion to approve the petition of the Pisgah Area SORBA chapter and the motion was seconded by Rob Murphy. All present voted in favor of the motion.

President Owen then requested approval of the August 2005 minutes. John Hicks made a motion to approve the August 2005 minutes, which was seconded by Blake Sexton. All present voted in favor of approving the August 2005 minutes.

The Executive Director's report began with President Owen reporting that, after much discussion by the Executive Committee, effective January 1, 2006 (as suggested by Bill Camp) SORBA membership rates will be increased. Chapters will continue to receive \$5 per member. ED Tom Sauret noted that the need to raise dues is related to a decrease in event participation.

ED Sauret continued the Executive Director's report with a discussion of the recently completed audit of SORBA for the year ending December 31, 2004. Based on the results of the audit SORBA has hired a bookkeeper to help implement a new accounting system. A new financial reporting form, along with instructions, was handed out to the chapters that will be required to be submitted to SORBA main on a monthly basis. Failure to submit these forms in a timely manner can and will lead to the revocation of a chapter's right to vote on the Board of Directors. Discussions on this topic ensued and included: the potential for a financial workshop for chapters in the future, alternatives to the current financial and accounting system, the standardization of financial systems

across all chapters, and notifying a chapter's members if its SORBA voting status is at risk of being revoked.

ED Sauret also discussed the potential for the development of a SORBA-wide policies and procedures manual. He also noted that SORBA received a lot of recognition at Interbike due to all of the hard work put forth by the chapters. A further brief discussion on the new dues and 2006 budget was conducted. Paul Farrow asked if it would be possible for chapters to receive member information so a chapter can better their member retention rates. Walt indicated that the information was available in an Excel format that can be sent to the chapters. A brief discussion on implementing an electronic version of the Fat Tire Times was conducted and it was mentioned that SORBA is getting a better mailing rate by utilizing the non-profit mailing rate. It was suggested that members have the option of how they receive the newsletter (as a comparison, the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign found that 25% of their members preferred electronic delivery) or that there be an optional add on to the membership dues if a member prefers to receive a hard copy.

Keith McFadden presented the Access report next. An update on the US Forest Service's recent policy changes was presented. Items that are important to SORBA chapters included: maintenance has to be scoped first to determine NEPA status (work with your district ranger as some projects may be grandfathered in), USFS safety regulations for volunteers are now the same as a FS employee (job hazard analysis for trail maintenance, ask Keith for specifics), and volunteers have to sign form after safety talk or won't be covered by FS insurance (not yet clear if a volunteer has to hear safety talk before each event or just once).

Keith led a discussion on IMBA Trail Care Crew requests. The Sope Creek request has been scrapped. The request for Wildwood has been put on hold as well. The request for a visit to Arrowhead Park will be supported by SORBA. The request for a visit to FATS on March 24th and 25th will be supported as well and will be a SORBA-wide event. John Hicks noted that chapters should be aware that the Trail Care Crew visits are more educational than actual trail building.

Robin Allen presented the Fat Tire Times report. She discussed the new rate sheets and other handouts that were passed out to all chapters in attendance. They should also be available on the website. The FTT deadline for chapter notes was discussed as well. There was further discussion on an optional incentive for chapters to sell ads, dropping the calendar (except for major events) from the FTT, placing ads for remote business near the associated chapter's notes section, and working on national advertising accounts.

The meeting was adjourned for a 10 minute break.

Immediately following the break a discussion on the 2006 calendar ensued. The following dates and tentative locations were presented for the Board of Director meetings:

March 11 – Woodstock, Georgia

August 12 – Asheville, NC

November 18 – Gainesville, GA

In addition to Board meetings, the following events were noted:

Granny Gear - 24 Hours of Conyers – May 20-21 (this will require moving the Helen event)

Enduro Adventures, Inc - 24 Hours of Pisgah – September 16-17

National Trails Day – June 3, 2006 (Chapters are encouraged to develop events and work together for bigger events)

There will be 2 SORBA-wide trail weekends in 2006 (similar to the Helen event in 2005). Chattanooga, Ellijay, Macon, CSRA, and Middle Tennessee chapters all threw their hat in to host a weekend.

The meeting moved into the Old Business portion. The SORBA race series proposal was presented and discussion ensued. Items discussed during this portion of the meeting included: utilizing a new organization for scoring/timing, the advocacy portion of SORBA will not be diverted to develop a race “monster”, the need for a new staff position to run a series, the role of SORBA’s Executive Director, ensuring the series is a part of the NORBA points system, the set-up for individual state champs, participant make-up, how races would be run, fee structure, attracting new racers, the status of the proposal and why the race committee didn’t develop a full business plan, the potential for a 1 year delay on setting up a race series to allow time to iron out the wrinkles, concerns on why NEMBA is staying out of races, and the lack of knowledge of the potential SORBA race series by general SORBA members. Tim Carlfeldt made a motion to table the SORBA races series until a full, detailed business plan has been presented. Paul Farrow seconded the motion and all present voted in favor of the motion. It was also noted that the Chattanooga festival, which included a race outside of a series, made money. Jay Franklin stressed the importance of incorporating SORBA’s event policy with regards to rain dates into the plan.

The meeting then moved into the New Business portion. President Owen presented two proposed by-law changes. The first would change the minimum chapter size from the current 10 to 15. Discussion followed and a motion to accept the change was made by Ken Camp. The second came from Charlie Maffitt. Two members opposed the change, with the remaining members in favor so the motion passed.

The second proposed by-law change related to chapter financial reporting and the potential revocation of a chapter’s SORBA status if the reports aren’t filed in a timely manner. Robert Murphy made a motion to accept the change and the motion was seconded. Discussion followed that related to this change actually being a policy or procedure and not a by-law. It was noted that, as structured currently, it is a by-law and that the by-laws should be revamped to simplify placing items like this in a policies/procedures manual. A vote was taken and all present voted against the original motion. Tim Carlfeldt made a motion to present a resolution, to be noted in the minutes of the meeting that stresses the importance that chapters submit the required monthly financial reports on a monthly basis to insure that their SORBA status is not in jeopardy. Robert Murphy seconded the motion and all present voted in favor of the motion on the resolution.

Board Secretary Eric Hunter asked that all chapters forward him a copy of their chapter by-laws at secretary@sorba.org.

Officer nominations were then completed. Daniel Short nominated the following slate of officers via email on October 26, 2005:

President – Keith Owen

Vice President – Angela Allen

Secretary – Eric Hunter

Robert Murphy seconded this motion and all present voted in favor of the slate of officers. ED Sauret noted that the position of Treasurer was vacant and requested that chapters survey their members to see if anyone with a financial background would be interested in this position.

Paul Farrow asked for a further discussion of the IMBA/SORBA relationship that was mentioned in an earlier meeting. Jay Franklin noted that IMBA is trying to push functions out to the field level.

Blake Sexton issued a big thank you to everyone on the Board for the work that they did in 2005.

Jay Franklin presented a grant proposal writing workshop in connection with the existing Recreational Trails Program grant opportunities. Handouts of the presentation were distributed to those in attendance.

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary