



P.O. Box 1358
Gainesville, GA 30503
Phone 770-718-3674

Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association November 18, 2006

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on November 18, 2006 at the Elachee Nature Center in Gainesville, Georgia. The meeting commenced at approximately 10:15 a.m.

See attached document for those members present. It was noted that there were no representative present from the following chapters: Charlotte, Ellijay, Gwinnett, Huntsville, Macon (OMBA), Middle TN, Raleigh/Durham (TORC), and Tallahassee, FL. All other chapters had a voting member present.

Keith Owen called the meeting to order and then requested approval of the August 2006 minutes. A motion to approve the August 2006 minutes was made and seconded. All present voted in favor of approving the August 2006 minutes.

The floor was opened for officer nominations. No additional nominations were brought forward, as such the slate of incumbents (Keith Owen – President, Angela Allen – Vice President, Eric Hunter – Secretary, Vacant – Treasurer) was moved and seconded. All present voted in favor of retaining the existing set of officers.

There were no new chapter petitions. It is expected that a chapter from Knoxville, Tennessee will petition for membership in 2007.

The Access report was presented by Keith McFadden. Keith has heard interest in forming a LaGrange chapter of SORBA to work on potential trails on West Point Lake.

Robin Allen presented a report on the Fat Tire Times and other communication related issues. Events for the 2007 calendar need to be confirmed to Robin ASAP. Chapter notes for the FTT are due on the 5th of each month. Please get them to Robin so she doesn't have to hunt them down and she'd like to get out at least one issue that features notes from all the Chapters. Robin also discussed the featured trail section and advertising in the FTT.

The membership report was rolled into the Executive Director's report as Daniel was not present.

Tom Sauret presented the Executive Director's report next. Tom and Keith wanted to thank everyone for all of their hard work over the past year to get SORBA into the position it is in

currently. Last year at this time, SORBA was in dire straits and a decision was made to raise the membership dues by \$5. Tom noted that people have actually increased their contributions to SORBA. The projected membership income in the annual budget should be met by the end of the year. The Annual Fund will be used to as grants and increased work with local chapters instead of survival.

Tom presented the following numbers:

- \$121,400 in unrestricted income through 11/16/06
- ~\$171,000 in overall income (including restricted and chapter grants)
- Annual fund has almost met the \$10,000 goal.

There was a discussion on the availability of SORBA grants and organization of work parties for chapters. Tom discussed the calendar for 2007 events and presented the working 2007 budget, which was conservatively budgeted.

Tom also requested, again, that Chapters close their individual bank accounts and allow SORBA Main to handle all of the accounting and payment. It was noted that SORBA has retained a book keeper and a CPA to deal with this. Tom estimated that SORBA could save ~\$5,000 a year if the individual accounts would be closed and reminded everyone that SORBA is fully insured against any potential malfeasance. Tom also asked that each chapter review their financial reports to make sure they are correct.

Information on membership was then presented. SORBA has ~2,100 members depending on renewal. Chapter reports have been sent out by Daniel. Please check with Daniel if you have any issues. Jeff Gandy discussed the ongoing development of the online membership database. He is still working out some of the issues with security for the database and the fact that Comcast blocks emails from SORBA.

Tom led a discussion of the 2007 budget. There was a question on ProTrails, which is a new program from SORBA. SORBA has developed ProTrails to subcontract trail construction and bring in additional funds. The sponsorship/donations line is based on funds and donations coming from the likes of Maxxis, Subaru (including a 2nd car for 2007) and others. There was a motion to approve the working 2007 budget. The motion was seconded and all present voted in favor.

Tom then presented the proposal for SORBA to develop a stronger relationship with IMBA. The following points were presented and/or discussed:

- Similarities and differences between the organizations
- IMBA would take over payroll duties, membership data processing, work with Bike Patrol training, offer benefits, and retirement funds for a monthly fee
- Merging IMBA newsletter and FTT
- Review the MOU every couple of years
- Dues structure would remain the same (IMBA gets foothold in the SE)
- Every SORBA member would become IMBA member for 1 price
- Work together on annual fund drives
- Alter SORBA logo to incorporate IMBA

- Still use SORBA budget and retain SORBA BOD
- Will work out legal issues by March 07 (IMBA Exec Director to visit in March)
- Will SORBA be known as an “affiliate” or “partner” over “division”
- IMBA is already working with Nor Cal and Minnesota in a similar fashion, Michigan is interested and NEMBA won’t pursue
- Will IMBA members become SORBA members? Working on those details
- Tom needs permission to continue this discussion with IMBA and to allow IMBA to take over payroll. A snail mail ballot will go out to SORBA members to get feedback.
- Other organizations with a similar model
- Membership information sharing is key
- John Hicks suggested a committee of 6 presidents to conduct dialogue and develop key points to be addressed in this relationship

Approval for moving forward with membership processing, payroll, and other administrative functions was granted. The following recommendations for the committee were made: John Hicks (Woodstock), Daniel Short (UC3), Paul Farrow (CSRA), Brian Matthews (Athens), someone from PAS or TORC and someone from Huntsville.

A 10 minute break was called at 11:05 a.m.

Following the break, a discussion on a SORBA-wide work party at Tsali ensued. Potential for April 2007 timeframe and getting NOC involved was discussed. Asheville chapter will work on making the local contacts.

Keith Owen then led a Round Robin session to gather input from each chapter as to their needs and how SORBA can help. The following information was presented by the chapters:

- Asheville – more \$\$, more advocacy for inner city trails and ways to make more \$\$ (fundraising help)
- Athens – membership info, need more trails in Athens-Clarke County and the general vicinity, help setting up meetings with government and parks staff
- Atlanta – reminder of IMBA TCC @ Sope Creek
- CSRA – FATS is open, need help with extra promotional items for FATS and more involvement with NMBP again
- Chattanooga – need volunteer help (more land than people that can help build trails), big work party weekend would help
- Freeride – need help building club, Carter’s Lake MOU
- Gainesville – Reroutes at Chicopee and new parking lot, RTP grant, need help with NMBP
- Habersham(UC3) – Lady slipper in good shape, no fees at Nancytown, working on access to USFS hiking trails and work at Frady Branch
- MARC – Lewis Soles trail (~3 miles of trail right off greenway) ribbon cutting in Spring in the city of Franklin, Stonewall bids are out and due back by Dec 13 with 120 days after for completion, GTC to replace amenities as part of agreement, need more riders when Stonewall reopens
- NWGA – Staying busy applying for grants, meeting with RDC, Raisin Woods, Ft Mountain maintenance deal with parking fees covered for volunteers, Pinhoti Trail connector, Dry

Creek trail (20-30 or more miles possible), Set up booths at local health fairs, work with Boys & Girls clubs (private donor is buying bikes and a trailer), need more promotional items for Snake TT and Subaru visit

- RAMBO – raised lots of \$\$, finished Big Creek, would like a toolbox on the SORBA website to post successful grant applications, MOUs, etc. (Resource area of the website)
- Woodstock – Blankets Master Plan in final review, long term lease with been in place 1st quarter of 2007, an additional 8-10 miles (North Loop), received \$10,000 gift to pay to build new trail, will be soliciting gifts in the \$100 to \$5,000 range to raise the remaining \$20,000 for new trail building, MOU with Reinhardt College (bike club at the college), 2 high school mountain bike clubs in the area with more potential, IMBA opportunity is exciting, need help developing a list of matching gift opportunities

The March 10, 2007 BOD meeting will take place in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

There being no further business, President Owen adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 12:10 p.m. for lunch. Following lunch were presentations by Kathleen Atkinson (USFS Forest Supervisor for Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia) and Jenn Dice from IMBA.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary