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Minutes of the Meeting of the Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association March 20, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on at the Dalton City Hall in Dalton, Georgia. The meeting commenced at 12:50 p.m.

See attached document for those members present.

The meeting was preceded by a welcome and slideshow presented by James Stankowitz, President of the Northwest Georgia SORBA chapter. Additional attending members of the Northwest Georgia chapter were introduced.

Keith Owen called the meeting to order, briefly introduced himself, and asked for the Board and attending SORBA members to introduce themselves. President Owen then requested approval of the November 2004 minutes. The minutes from November 2004 were not readily available and Tom Sauret indicated that the minutes would be emailed out for review and approval. The minutes from November 2004, along with the budget for 2005, were approved by the Board of Directors through an email vote.

The treasurer's report followed and each individual chapter received their current financial reports.

Executive Director Tom Sauret lead discussions on two action items from the November 2004 meeting relating to the reorganization of the Sumner County, TN Cycling Club (Lock 4) and the Northeast Georgia SORBA chapter.

ED Sauret noted that members of SORBA's staff and Board recently visited with the Sumner County Cycling Club to discuss reorganizing and rejuvenating the chapter. Discussion ensued relating to the revamped chapter's geographic boundaries, new chapter name, and other contacts in the new chapter's area. Sam Poyner made a motion to rename the chapter to the Middle Tennessee SORBA chapter. A second was made and all attending voted in favor with a voice vote.

ED Sauret noted that Lester Ramsey (Northeast Georgia SORBA chapter President) was in attendance and SORBA main will continue to work with this chapter to reinvigorate it.

Keith McFadden's Access report was delayed to his presentation later in the meeting.

Walt Bready presented the Membership report. SORBA is approaching 1,700 members and an official program to recognize chapter group, member retention, etc. is being put into place. Upcoming SORBA events were then discussed.

Tom Sauret presented the Executive Director's report. ED Sauret recently attended a meeting called by IMBA in Boulder to discuss issues relating to IMBA and how several mountain bike associations including SORBA have dealt with similar issues such as membership, events, etc. The goal was to gather ideas to reinvigorate IMBA as a whole.

Members of SORBA also recently attended the National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C. that included discussions on the reauthorization of the Recreational Trails Program, meeting the congressional delegations of the states SORBA covers, and various other educational programs.

SORBA will be working to increase the number of rides put on by the organization, strengthen the Trips for Kids program, and developing a SORBA trail care crew to help all SORBA chapters. Discussions ensued on the topics presented during the Executive Director's report.

ED Sauret then presented for discussion and action the potential for SORBA to take over control of the entire GAP race series in 2006. Discussion ensued relating to the potential impacts on SORBA's advocacy work, potential revenues, racer complaints, volunteer and trail requirements for racing, and the continued support of bike dealers. A motion was made to put together a committee to study the proposal and provide a pros and cons document for discussion at the August 2005 Board meeting. The motion was seconded and all present voted in favor of the motion with a voice vote. The committee will consist of Walt Bready (SORBA), Paul Farrow (CSRA), Patrick Barry (SORBA-Atlanta), Jay Aiken (RAMBO), Renee Martinez (OMBA), and James Stankowitz (NW Georgia SORBA).

ED Sauret wrapped up the Executive Director's report with the announcement of the grand opening of the Central Park mountain bike trail on March 26 and SORBA's influence with the Governor's office in Georgia.

Two items were discussed in New Business. The first item was National Trails Day on June 4. REI will be providing support for work at Chicopee Woods. Discussion ensued relating to the idea of two regional projects proposed in the November 2004 Board meeting. It was decided that SORBA main's focus will be on opening the Woodring trail at Carter's Lake. Individual chapters with prior commitments for National Trails Day projects will honor those commitments.

The second item was the Nimblewill Bike Festival August 19-21. There will be a meeting of the executive members of SORBA's board on the Friday night of the festival. The full Board meeting will be conducted the Saturday afternoon of the festival.

President Owen then led a discussion on the top three chapter requests presented by each chapter's president. The list of twenty two requests was consolidated and then each president (or proxy) voted on their top ten requests. The top three requests were identified as follows:

1. Increase pipeline of qualified trail workers, including machine operators, to take advantage of significant new trail potential and maximize trail building and maintenance productivity

- by expanding use of powered trail building equipment.
2. Closer relationships with all chapters-what's going on at each chapter, what do you need help with, here are the resources that might help and foster healthy inter-chapter relationships.
 3. Inform chapters of available grant movies and assist in grant writing activities.

Those in attendance split into three groups based on their area of interest and group discussions ensued. The results of those discussions as they relate to the above requests are below:

1. A one day class should be developed for those people who take the full class to take back to their chapters, additional partnerships need to be developed for equipment, and pushing training opportunities out to the remote chapter locations (Mike Riter's class).
2. Intra- & Inter- SORBA relationships, chapters sometimes feel like their reinventing the wheel (consolidate resources), improve communications for planning events (utilize website), archive forms and flyers, workshops at Nimblewill (communication, organizational planning).
3. Cohesive grants strategy at SORBA main level, liaison at SORBA main to handle organization and provide support for chapters, research opportunities and set priorities.

There was a general consensus that these breakout sessions were effective and should be used again in the future.

Walt Bready followed with a discussion on additional membership items. Those items included providing monthly chapter membership reports, how to handle submitting a new membership when someone gives you cash, and the generic membership flyer that is on the website.

Tom Sauret reminded every chapter that their 2004 financial reports need to be in by the end of March to get to the auditor in time, think big, work together, and remember that SORBA is a nationally known and respected organization.

Keith McFadden presented a workshop on working with land managers.

Final items discussed were about the availability of merchandise for purchase, swag for work parties, and a reminder that Central Park's grand opening would be on March 26, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

There being to further business, President Owen adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Keith Owen, President

Eric Hunter, Secretary