

FORC Board Meeting

February 7th, 2022

The following Board members were present:

Aaron G	President
Zachary B	Vice President
Mandy G	Race Director
Drew H	Web Director, Trail Steward for Illiniwek/Dorrance
Glen S	Treasurer
Dave B	Secretary

Also present were Brad M (Trail Steward for SCP), Shannon G and Ben and Steve Dalbey from Muscatine.

Glen provided the Treasurer's report:

The club has \$26,400 cash on hand as of January 31st; this figure does not reflect the income from Fondo. A summary of 2021 finances follows. Note these numbers do not reflect monies taken in and spent for the pavilion (which is a push):

Income \$23000, broken down as follows:

\$2200 in dues. This reflects between 110 and 125 paying members, which seems low.

\$4100 in merchandise sales

\$6780 in donations

Expenses \$14375, broken down as follows:

\$4300 for races

\$2200 insurance

\$4700 on parks:

Sunderbruch	\$133
SCP	\$1600
Illiniwek/Dorrance	\$622
Dog Park	\$2450

Overall the group netted about \$9000 in '21.

Aaron brought new information regarding acquisition of a new trailer, which the Board discussed at the last meeting. Aaron found a suitable trailer at a facility in Fulton. This 14'x7.5'x7' tall trailer costs about

\$9600. Drew, who was not present at the last meeting, asked for more information as to why the group is pursuing a new trailer instead of looking for ways to make the existing trailer more effectively used. Following discussion the Board agreed to proceed with listing the existing trailer on FB marketplace with an asking price of \$4500 OBO, and acquiring a new trailer, which we want in place before SIS in April.

During the discussion on the trailer, Glen brought up the potential for development of a mobile application which uses QR codes on signs on the trails to guide users in real time. Such an application would cost approximately \$10000.

Mandy discussed the Fondo. We had 111 pre-registered riders and three who were allowed to register that day for a total of 114 riders, making this our biggest race yet. We received \$222 in tips at the “crotch” and \$1400 in raffle cash/swipes, leaving a profit for the group of around \$2800. The event was covered by Living Local, Paula Sands Live, WHBF (Channel 4) and the Quad City Times.

Aaron turned the meeting over to our guests, Steve and Ben Dalbey, a father and son from Muscatine who are looking to create a youth MTB group in the Muscatine area. Ben noted the statewide organization controls the races(Bikelowa) and a State partnership with National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) takes about two years to process. Right now Ben and Steve plan to use existing hard bike paths and some available double track in the Muscatine area, as serious MTB trails are in short supply in that area. Until such trails are developed, for more serious mountain biking the pair plans to travel north to use FORCs trails. Furthermore, they are asking for volunteers to help the youths when they travel to our trails and help from FORC when organizing/participating in races. Ben noted the State’s racing season is short and they don’t expect their new group will participate in any races in ’22. The Board was very receptive to the presentation and expressed interest in providing support as needed.

Mandy next discussed upcoming events:

The Bike and Part Swap will be held March 27th at the Village Theatre in the Village of East Davenport. We need a stand of some sort to organize bikes. Steve Dalbey volunteered a rack he happens to own.

Take a Kid Mountain Biking will be April 2nd. Venue has yet to be determined, but likely to be Sylvan Island. There will be two rides: one from 10:00 to 12:00 and another from 1:00 to 3:00.

Sylvan Island Stampede (SIS) will be April 10th. We don’t have the required permit yet, but approval is expected at the next Moline Park Board meeting on February 24th. SIS will be pre-registration only; the Board noted this is a successful model and we are unlikely to go back to “day of” registration for our events.

On May 15th the group will hold the ScoCoPa Frenzy at Scott County Park.

Mandy noted Bikelowa’s takeover of the Iowa MTB racing series will result in better publicity for our events.

Mandy also asked whether we should continue making registration free to the under 18 crowd. The Board agreed.

Glen brought up a discussion continued from the previous meetings regarding allocation of monies across the various parks. The Board has to separate out “trail development” and “trail maintenance”

expenses. Trail maintenance expenses vary from park to park; for example DeWitt pays a lot of the expenses for maintaining Westbrook trails so FORC spends very little money there. In the previous meeting, Glen noted there are alternates to the current method of allocating \$500 per park per year. Aaron pointed out that money is intended for maintenance, not for projects and improvements. Glen suggested allocating monies based on the miles of trails in a system or the amount of usage each system gets. Another option to explore is having each Trail Steward approach the Board at the beginning of the year to get approval for proposed projects at their respective parks. Glen suggested the Board use a "fiscal year" of March through November when allocating monies for projects or trail maintenance, as no one works on trails during the winter. Each Trail Steward would be asked to provide all receipts in December, to allow the Board to "close out" the budget for the year and prepare a budget for the following year. The Board also agreed it's important trail stewards work with land managers before adding features or performing major reroutes.

In the end the Board agreed to continue the budgeting discussion at the March meeting.

In total 15 members and guests attended the Membership Meeting following the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Bowman, Secretary.