

FORC Board Meeting

March 7th, 2022

The following Board members were present:

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| 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) and Dan H (Trail Steward for Dog Park).

President Aaron G is on vacation and Zach ran the meeting.

Glen provided the Treasurer's report:

The club has \$30,700 cash on hand. We received \$3400 from the Fondo plus \$900 in merchandise sales and \$150 in dues.

The trails reports were scant as all trails save Sylvan are closed, as expected for this time of year. Brad reported additional work is needed on the boardwalk at Tarmac at SCP. He also reported he expects, with the help of the Browns, to have Area 51 ready for this riding season.

The Board discussed lumber prices and generally agreed Trail Stewards would be well served to make lumber purchases now, proving said lumber can be properly stored, as prices are sure to continue to rise.

Mandy discussed upcoming events:

This year marks FORCs 25th anniversary and a celebration is planned in August at SCP. We intend to make this a low key celebration. Mandy will look into renting a pavilion for this event. There is a (running) race scheduled for August 13th so we will have to work around that.

March 27th is the Bike and Outdoor Gear Swap Meet at the Village Theatre in Davenport. The event starts at 11:00; volunteers are needed to set up starting at 10:30 and vendors are asked to arrive at 10:45. Mandy asked Brad and Glen to fabricate a bike stand for use at the event. Mandy passed around a sign-up sheet for those with items to sell. (At the February meeting, Steve Dalbey from Muscatine volunteered a rack for us to use.)

April 2nd is Take a Kid Mountain Biking on Sylvan Island at 10:00, followed by MTB-101 at 1:00 in the afternoon. Volunteers are needed for the morning and afternoon sessions.

April 3rd is Sylvan Island cleanup and trail work day in preparation for SIS on April 10th. We might rent some equipment to fill in boggy areas and groom the trails.

As was just mentioned SIS will be on April 10th. Registration is expected to open in a day or two for this event. Mandy noted the time between races will be extended compared to previous

years in order to allow more time for race results to be loaded. The last race will start at 1:45 p.m. The Board discussed the awards structure for the race at length. Mandy noted the big payouts for the winners attracts riders from out of state, for example Green Bay, Wisconsin. Glen wondered whether we could award prizes for the top ten in each category, with places six through ten receiving their entry fee back as a prize. Aaron was tasked at the previous meeting with pricing medals; as he's on vacation we don't know what he's learned. Someone suggested t-shirts as prizes; Mandy noted we don't have enough of those and there's always the sizing issue. Zach suggested we hand out vouchers for FORC merchandise as awards. In the end Mandy noted we've already communicated our award structure and asked if any changes can be made for the '23 racing season. The Board tabled the discussion for a future meeting.

May 15th is the ScoCoPa Frenzy at (wait for it) SCP. This will be discussed in detail at the April and May Board meetings.

The Board noted the Sylvan Island pavilion construction is still waiting on concrete. Aaron is working with the concrete vendor to schedule that work.

The Board continued the discussion regarding acquisition of a larger trailer, held over from last month's meeting. The current trailer will be at the Swap Meet on March 27th and marked "For Sale". Dave B will take photos at that time; if the trailer does not sell at the meet he will list it on FB market. At the February meeting the asking price was set at \$4500 OBO. Following sale of the current trailer purchase of a larger replacement will happen. Drew noted he found several used trailers meeting our criteria at reasonable prices.

Drew notified the Board of a recent land purchase by Rock Island County Park Board, two approximately 80-acre lots near (but not abutting) Illiniwek. The Park Board is interested in FORC cutting trails on these two lots and connecting them with an easement. Drew noted these two lots don't have the elevation changes found at Illiniwek and are more like SCP in that regard. It will be at least a year before any work can begin so the Board has time to discuss options.

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.

Lastly, Dan asked for money to purchase lumber and other supplies needed for the black trail at Dog Park. Glen segued this request into a general discussion of the budgeting process for our trails. Although FORC has a lot of money in the bank, we owe it to our membership to spend that money wisely, and we owe it to our land managers to ensure we have permission before we add features and trails to our systems. The Board agreed to schedule an annual meeting of Trail Stewards, the first one to be scheduled after the April Board meeting next month, to allow each Steward the opportunity to present planned projects for approval by the Board. At this meeting in April the Board will also consider equitable means of budgeting maintenance of the trails, as the current method (\$500 per system per year) does not consider such factors as the length of trails on the system and the level of support received from the salient land manager (for example, DeWitt pays for many of the supplies used to maintain Westbrook trails). Projects approved at this April meeting will be brought to the next membership meeting for approval. Glen noted, with all the trail systems we have and the potential expansions in the works we can make the Quad Cities a premier Mountain Biking destination. In order

for that to happen we have to budget our money wisely, including looking as much as three to five years into the future for trail development, and “protect our brand” by ensuring we build and maintain excellent trails and features on all our systems with full cooperation of riders and land managers.

In total 18 members attended the Membership Meeting following the board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be April 4th, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. with the membership meeting to start immediately following at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Bowman, Secretary.