

FORC Board Meeting

August 7th, 2023

The following Board members were present:

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

Also present were Shannon G, First Lady, Brad M, Trail Steward for Scott County Park, Dave D, Trail Steward for Westbrook, and Andrew N, Trail Steward for Sunderbruch.

Glen opened the meeting with some show and tell. He's had several signs, which he brought and passed around, made for Scott County and Sunderbruch. The cost was around \$600 for the signs and another \$600 or so for the 4x4 posts used to hold the signs. Glen noted FORC has the funds to pay for more signs as Stewards see the need for them, so all Stewards are encouraged to identify locations for signs and contact Glen.

Aaron requested Trail Reports from the Stewards present:

Brad reports SCP rides well and the trails are clear. Recently Brad, Dave and Bruce completed a small gap jump on Cannon loop; there is a safety bridge in place until signage is placed identifying the "B" line. Brad has another location on Cannon for a second gap jump. He also requested permission to purchase lumber needed for bridge repairs and installation of another horse barrier. The Board approved this expenditure (\$600).

Drew reported trails at Illiniwek and Dorrance are clear. He will be replacing damaged signs at Dorrance. Work on the third berm at Illiniwek will continue using expanded metal for decking. This material is durable and relatively inexpensive. Drew will perform the fabrication himself; he expects to fabricate sections at home and transport to the park for installation. The Board approved \$1200 to cover expenses for this repair. Glen noted some trail owners outside of FORC are putting wire mesh on wood features to improve traction.

Andrew fixed some erosion issues at Sunderbruch, as well as repairing some berms. He needs white oak for additional repairs, approximately 300 board-feet. Drew noted he has lumber available, more than what Andrew needs. Andrew will be refreshing the Jump Line in the fall. Andrew needs help with weed whacking, which takes about 50 person-hours for the entire trail system.

Andrew's need for lumber prompted a general discussion regarding sources of good lumber. There is a mill in Amana which sells exactly what we need for about \$1 a board-foot. Aaron

offered the use of his truck and trailer for anyone who wishes to make the run. Aaron estimated we will be bringing back about three thousand pounds of green fresh cut lumber.

Dave D has not been to Westbrook lately but plans a visit for Tuesday. He's seen a lot of new (young) riders at the park, which is encouraging. The Board held a discussion of the new loop, which was started by FORC members but "finished" by someone who is not a member of the club. The resultant trail is a dead end, not a loop. Following discussion, the Board decided to block this new trail off, to allow the vegetation to grow back in. In the fall we will hold a trail day to scrape out the actual permanent loop. Dave D and Dave B took the action to close off the trail.

Josh W, who arrived after the Board meeting started, reported Sylvan trails are in good shape overall. The shingle bridge floated and moved during the recent flooding and needs to be set back where it belongs; this will take about eight people to accomplish. Glen asked whether we should replace it with a turtle bridge similar to that used at SCP. Josh discussed the potential use of steel plates designed to support 6x6 posts; these steel plates are quite heavy and can help hold the structure in place. The Board directed Josh to bring back some cost estimates to the next Board meeting in September. Mandy set a Sylvan trail day for August 27th to clean trails and prepare them for the September 21st Time Trials.

Glen reported we have \$36,200 in the bank, after he purchased the aforementioned signs.

There is a running race (Illiniwek Race the Night) scheduled for August 19th at Illiniwek. The Board held a general discussion of whether trail systems should be closed to the public when events are held. Options presented were signs indicating "race in progress" or just closing the trail system to the public.

Mandy reported out on a Trail Summit held the previous evening at Fleet Feet in Davenport. A big focus of this Summit was cooperation and coexistence between riders and runners on mixed use trail systems. Runners who use trails agree they should bear part of the burden of trail maintenance. Runners are encouraged to join FORC, as the money raised is a big help in trail maintenance.

Mandy brought up a discussion she had with folks from Camp Abe Lincoln regarding use of their trails for mountain biking. Aaron noted the last time they contacted FORC they expected us to maintain their double track, which obviously we aren't going to do. Mandy will report back on what they actually want from FORC at the September meeting.

Mandy quickly briefed the group on upcoming events:

Taming of the Slough	September 16 th
Time Trials	September 21 st
FORC Enduro	September 30 th .

August 31st through September 4th is the Copper Harbor trip. Most of the available rooms are reserved for FORC members.

In total 22 individuals attended the Membership Meeting following the board meeting.

The next Board meeting will be September 11th, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. with the membership meeting to start immediately following at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Bowman, Secretary.