

FORC Board Meeting

April 17th, 2024

The following Board members were present:

Aaron G President
Mandy G Race Director
Dave B Secretary, Trail Steward for Westbrook
Drew H Web Director, Trail Steward for Illiniwek/Dorrance

Also present were Andrew N, Trail Steward for Sunderbruch and Brad M, Trail Steward for SCP.

A special meeting was called to discuss the issue of timing for the two upcoming races and to arrive at a more permanent solution for future years.

Mandy opened with a brief review of profits from SIS. FORC netted \$1470.97 from this race. However that figure is affected by how we proceed for timing for the next two races:

- AB Timing quoted \$1800 for one race (SIS) or \$4800 for all three of this year's races (\$1600/race). So if FORC chooses a different system or vendor for the next two races our net for SIS is down to \$1270.97.
- The Board voted to contract AB Timing for the remaining two races, leaving revenue from SIS at \$1470.97.
- Aaron pointed out the purpose of FORC is to promote mountain biking, not make a profit, so if we break even or take a small loss while promoting our sport that is acceptable.

Having settled the issue of timing for this year's races, the discussion turned to a more sustainable solution for future years' events. Drew has been exploring an Application called Webscorer (www.webscorer.com).

- This application allows for a variety of options to time races depending on the budget one has.
- The simplest and least expensive option is using "punch buttons" on a tablet or smartphone. Riders are entered into the system and assigned numbers. The user watches for riders to pass the finish line and "punches" the numbered button on their screen corresponding to each rider. The system will accommodate multiple users with screens, to ensure each rider gets correctly timed.
- More expensive, but more accurate and reliable, is using chips. The end user purchases additional hardware and of course the chips for individual riders. Drew estimates the upfront costs for this system to be about \$2000. The Board agrees this is a reasonable expense for a system we expect to use several times a year.
- The Board discussed obtaining a dedicated tablet or laptop to support the chip system; this device will need to be reliable with a good battery as it's expected to run for several hours. This might raise upfront costs to as much as \$4000. Again the Board felt this to be a reasonable expense. (It should be noted previous discussions of a chip type timing system involved a cost between \$10,000 and \$11,000)

With the questions of timing this year's races and the purchase of a system for future years answered, the Board turned to administration and other questions regarding the new timing system:

- The Webscorer system will be run in parallel with AB Timing for the Sunderbruch event on June 2nd.
- The Board will identify and name a dedicated individual to "own" the system for FORC. This person will report to the Race Director, and will have a small crew of helpers (analogous to how each Trail Steward has their own crew).
- The Race Timer will "aggressively" learn the new system to be ready by June 2nd.
- We may approach the generous property owners who live near Sunderbruch if they would be willing to help fund some or all of the new system. These individuals typically donate ~\$4000 a year (total) toward the maintenance of Sunderbruch trails.
- FORC may also pursue sponsorships to help pay for the new system.
- The Board discussed the potential for lending out the new equipment to other groups. The Board determined we should not take that risk, or at the very least charge a fee for use of the equipment, to limit our losses in the event something untoward happens.

The Board then turned its attention to other items of interest:

- Mandy plans to sell food at the upcoming races. She can get a box of 20 tenderloins from Meatheads for \$53. We would also offer pop, Gatorade, etc.
- Ten riders are registered for the Illiniwek event. Mandy is planning to spread the word on various on-line platforms.
- Mandy would like to hold regular events (FORC Socials) to spread the word about FORC and increase membership. These events might be held monthly, at different locations; FORC would buy a keg of beer, the establishments may be asked to offer specials for that night.

Mandy discussed ways of making our Group Rides more of a social event, to attract more riders:

- With the weather improving, have people bring grills and food. Alternatively FORC could bring brats, hot dogs, chips and pop and set up a donation jar asking for \$5.
- We could also offer Skills Sessions before group rides to help newer riders learn new skills.
- Rotate which day of the week on which the rides are held, to allow for different individual schedules.
- Rotate to a different park each month.
- Brad noted night rides are now allowed at SCP, we must be out of the park no later than 10:00 p.m.

The May Board and Membership meeting will be held on April 29th to be sure that meeting is held before the Illiniwek event on Star Wars Day (May the 4th be with you). Likewise, the June meeting will be held May 29th, for the Sunderbruch event June 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Bowman, Secretary.