

# Meeting Jan 6, 2010

In attendance: K. Highfield, B. Begnaud, P. Teitel, R. Adams, R. Fontela, A. Fontela, C. Brown, C. Rowland, V. Roskar

Minutes of last meeting approved.

## Treasurer Report

Checking: \$7k

Grant: \$22k

Paypal: \$893.00

Total \$30892.19

## Membership Report

3 renewals; 12 New members since Nov 3. E-membership card overall positive. Giftworks 2010 updated but crashed.

E-card suggestion instead of paper mail, roll into incentive for renewals.

Giftworks online payments form needs to be submitted by Carla as is (with PO Box and Fed Tax ID number instead of SS no).

Need to integrate giftworks payments into website (instead of Paypal) **ACTION to investigate: Veljko 2/1: Raf waiting on Giftworks.**

Table integration of giftworks donations email gathering for feedburner updates

## Trails Report

Sugarland (Brazos River Park) site initial look see done Dec. 19. Daniel Reading trail steward keen to start laying out and building trails.

Need written agreement or MoU from Sugarland City Parks dept. for us to start any work.

Discussion about not having a MoU with Precint 4.

Use template for MoU from Carl Barton Park. Motion passed

**Action: ?? to write letter.**

Greg Gorsha at Bike Route is also a resource keen on helping.

Sugarland Brindley Memorial Trails forum, trail conditions...**ACTION Veljko COMPLETED**

Huntsville: Kenneth... eager to become HSP trails steward. J. Schroeder to be told by Chris who his successor is.

Other trails update, Cottonwood trail reroute in SFA?.

Flintridge new expansion this Saturday. G. Craig? ACTION. Bill B. contact Robery Collins Spring Creek Greenway

## VP Report

STS schedule made; only change for April 18 instead of 17 for SFA. ACTION Raf send to Veljko for entering onto calendar and announce. COMPLETED  
Action for land manager approvals C. Brown : SFA, B. Beg. precinct 4

BRC

reserve lodge ACTION Raf

Mike offered to help with store sponsorship. Raf to send table of stores to all directors.

Chris: West End, Bikesport

Roskar: Boone, Cyclone, Planetary

Raf: Webster, David Cycles, Bay Area Sc

K Hifh: Bike Barn, Sun & Ski

Phil: BW&F, Sugarland, Bikeroute (Jeff to help).

Sponsorship (abbreviated packet) sent to prior sponsors.

Catering: reserve action Chris

## Presidents Report

Since the last board meeting, no major items to report. I followed up with NWCC President, David King, and the \$20k grant for Huntsville should be confirmed at their February member meeting when they approve their 2010 budget.

Cypresswood advocacy: Reverend Glenn Wilkerson met with Jerry Eversole recently to discuss the Parker land tract (private land in the middle of C-wood trail). Eversole is still in favor of county purchasing the land and would set up a meeting with Mike Talbott to see if a new offer can be generated. As of now, I plan to contact Eversole myself and see if I can get some traction and steer this in the right direction.

Also on Cypresswood, Jim Robertson of Cypress Creek Greenway Project, and also Director of Bayou Preservation Society, approached me about support for including sections of Cypress Creek in the 2010 Trash Bash (Mar 27). I have put the C-wood leaders in touch with him and they will support this effort. Trash Bash is a major endeavor with a big support infrastructure. It will also be very useful, since there are very large amounts of trash along the trail that have washed down the creek at each flood.

I will be a panel speaker on the Texas Trails Conference in Austin in February 3-6. My panel is on Feb 6, along with President's from Big Bend Trail Coalition, Austin Ridge Riders, Hill Abel. Good exposure for us. Hill is also going to host a meeting of Texas MTB club leaders the same weekend to see if we can work on some joint initiatives for statewide advocacy. I am particularly interested in this to further the SHNF efforts. I think that some state input would be useful to help break through the Federal bureaucratic logjam. Conference link - <http://www.texasrtrails.biketexas.org/> and [http://www.texasrtrails.biketexas.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=75%3Abreakout-mountain-bike-clubs-dig-texas-building-trails-partnerships-and-community-panel&catid=4&Itemid=5](http://www.texasrtrails.biketexas.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=75%3Abreakout-mountain-bike-clubs-dig-texas-building-trails-partnerships-and-community-panel&catid=4&Itemid=5)

Speaking of the Feds, I was advised that the Sam Houston Trail Coalition meeting should be in late January, in Houston. Still awaiting updates here. Had a long chat with Warren Oja in December and he hopes to get the EA going for DL first week of January, which would be now. I have to find time to follow up with him before this week is out to hold him to that. I have also expressed a desire to meet with the new Forest Supervisor (the Lufkin based boss of all Texas National Forests) and Warren thought that would be a good idea for her (it's a she) to meet me. There's a lot of entrenched opposition within the FS to new trails, for various reasons: turf battles, inertia, ignorance. Very sad really. It is a battle I am feeling is well worth fighting and I think that we are assembling the elements to make a breakthrough soon. I see the SHNF as a major National Park on our back doorstep.

## Insurance

Problems with having to be a member 3+ days before any event.

We have "basic" (reduced) McKay insurance that covers.... R. Adams needs copy for work parties ACTION Kevin

Dorba is with McKay, Austin Ridge Riders are with IMBA's.

Motion to pay \$500 for basic director's coverage to McKay approved.

## 2009 Review and 2010 Budget

Action 2009 books send to accountant ACTION Russell

Kevin still needs to review Russell's final results to properly present this. The good news is that Russell has made fantastic progress in resolving 2009 numbers so that we can make a pretty good estimate at our first realistic budget.

Raf mentioned need for a financial report to membership so they can see where money is going.

Motion to publish annual review including President's review and basic financials by end of Jan APPROVED.

2010 racing budget Raf to give to Russell.

R. Adams 2009:

STS 2009 races broke even

BRC 2009 \$3k in black; if we get GT money we'll be \$6.5k+  
10th year anniversary -\$2400 (shirts were \$800 of that).

DI. Trail Expansion: -\$10k

Memberships +\$7200

Corporate Matching Donations: +\$7400 (Action Veljko to tell new HSP trails steward about XOM VIP program). COMPLETED

2010 Sprockids ACTION B. Begnaud (Cheap)

2010 Clinics Jeff Shoemake (Cheap)... 4x action dates?

2010 Trail Clinic ONE: -\$500

2010 Software -\$200 to spend for vbulletin forum software. Approved. Action veljko to buy and implement POSTPONED PENDING EVALUATION OF OTHER FORUM SOFTWARE (VANILLA)

2010 STS needs printer for races. Spend up to \$200. Approved. Action veljko to research SENT INFO TO RAF. Laser not recommended as the current draw is too high to run off batteries

## ANTHILLS

As discussed at the November meeting, I have polled trail users through the forums – Teamsmack, Onyourleftbiking, as well as speaking to various people. In November, I also took a tour of Anthills with Rudy Ramirez (Bada-Bing) who has created the Terryhersheypark.org website. Anthills was rideable and fun, but needs a lot of TLC. I've suggested to Rudy and Rob Brown that whatever we do, they need to be getting a group together who use Anthills to get back to the organized trail work that they used to have. Feedback on whether to work towards making AH official generally ran "go for it" from the newbies to "leave well alone" from the old hands. One thing I learned from Kelly Strader was that at least part of AH land is now P3 parks, and not HCFCFCD as we thought; this was done for the part of the south side where the paved trail was installed.

I have spoken with Phil about this and what I'd like to do is to renew efforts to develop a better working relationship with P3. We should really see about going and meeting Radack; no-one else seems to matter in P3. We also need to make sure we know who owns/ manages the land. I think we'll find it is actually part P3 parks and part HCFCFCD. As we develop relations with P3 the main thrust should be to explore new opportunities – the Energy Corridor master plan, John Paul Landing, other opportunities on the west side. As we talk, we can explore where we stand as far as Anthills goes. In other words, do the research, lay the ground work and make sure we know where we stand before attempting any substantive move towards officialdom. All such efforts require a similar amount of due-diligence and in a way, by starting such research we are moving towards the goal of AH being official. I think that should be our goal, but I do not want to be the one that gets us kicked out of there. That will not be my legacy and so caution is the way forward. One thing that gives me confidence it will succeed

eventually is our model at Cypresswood, which has a similar background and has earned plaudits from P4 (who would probably give us good references).

Action P Teitel R. Rayburn email on master plan progress forward to BoD. S. Radack to be approached softly.. see [Steve Radack's web page](#)

Need to determine ownership of land not just of all of Ant Hills but also of a lot of west side. A lot of it is HCFCO owned.

BikeHouston involvement needed?

Action Kevin to talk to P3 about anything except Anthills later this year.

Discussion about "sanctioned" and not-sanctioned trails.

Some trails in P4 are not-sanctioned but being ridden under verbal agreement (east side of TC Jester).

## **UNIFYING HOUSTON AREA GROUPS WITHIN GHORBA (tabled).**

A tall order and a big topic. The answer lies in continuing to make good on all the things we do so that the groups WANT to join with us more closely. We must be a part and parcel of those groups. The biggest groups are JB and CW and in essence we already are leaders of those groups within our own board. Anthills and MP "groups" are much less clearly defined and harder to identify and enlist. Flintridge is WCC and all we can do is help with trail work and advocacy and try to engender good working relations with WCC. I'm thinking that regional groups, with regional meetings might be a way forward. In other words, develop the groups under the unifying authority of GHORBA. The trick there is to find a way for GHORBA to continue to be attractive rather than a bureaucratic overlord. Whatever the way, we all need to be a part and parcel of the mtb "scene" ourselves and go out among the great unwashed and promote the club. Again though, when promoting GHORBA, we have to offer some benefits; for me I promote doing things for GHORBA as a way forward – helping promote events, work parties, advocacy. Group rides and social events are a harder sell when they are hard to identify as GHORBA events. Do we have group rides anymore? Suggest this topic is put out for views from BOD's and each should comment on the view from THEIR trail.

## **AOB**

Mileage reimbursements 2009 -\$1k reimbursed in 2009.  
IRS 2010 rate is \$.50 per mile. \$.14 if you don't get reimbursed but choose to take a deduction on the tax return. Decision on policy tabled for next mtg.

Next board mtg. put on calendar. Bike Barn new opening at Cypresswood wants to do clinic.