

THOR MEMBERS MEETING
March 1, 2009
AGENDA

Italic denotes information disseminate in the meeting

I. INTRODUCTIONS - RA

A. Board members

Co-chairs: Kent McNeil and Ryan Feagan (present)
Operations & Marketing: Roxzanne Abbott (present)
Webmaster: Tom Winfield (present)
Membership: Tim Wieland (present)
Treasurer: Don Raskey (present)
Advisory Board At Large: Martin Bixby (pres), Larry Kintner (pres), Cory Godfrey
Public Relations - Dave Packard (present)

B. Trail Leaders Intro - RA

Frank Olsen – Swanson (present)
Chris Price – Tranquility (present)
Josh Wilderman - Lewis & Clark (present)
Steve Dickey – Manawa (present)
Paul Sonksen - Platte River (present)
Steve Jarrett - Jewel Park (present)
Matt Gersib - Wilderness Park
Jeff Avey - Branched Oak Lake

Meeting opened with introductions of board and trail leaders. Everyone present introduced themselves. Topics of discussion are in the agenda.

II. MEETING TOPICS

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS of 2008 - KM/RA

2:05-2:10 pm

1. Attendance at advocacy events such as: Omaha Bike Summit, Rapid City Walk and Bike Summit, National Trails Symposium, Ped Bridge Opening and the luncheon featuring John Burke from Trek Bike Corporation and Andy Clark, Executive Director of The League of American Bicyclists
2. Dedication and team effort in the clean up during the 2008 storm season
3. Added trail signage to Jewel and Platte River
4. Tranquility trail additions & kiosk
5. Reroutes & bridges at Swanson, Platte River, L&C, and Jewel
6. Established a relationship with Friends of Wilderness Park
7. Trail expansion at Branched Oak
8. THOR.org blog

B. MISSION AND MEMBERS DEFINED (recap)- KM

2:10-2:15pm

Refresh board's expectations of members at large as well as any specific expectations in regards to: trail leaders, crew members

Involvement with resources of time and/or funding.

Refresh on our mission statement

T.H.O.R. is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to developing and maintaining sustainable off-road recreational trails in Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa, through partnerships with local land managers and trail users, by providing expertise, manpower and resources.

C. STATUS REPORT - What's going on with existing trails?

2:15-2:30pm

Frank Olsen - Swanson
Chris Price - Tranquility
Josh Wilderman - Lewis & Clark
Steve Dickey - Manawa
Paul Sonksen - Platte River
Steve Jarrett - Jewel Park
Matt Gersib - Wilderness
Jeff Avey - Branched Oak

Status Reports from Trail Leaders - (to include status of trail projects, projected projects and plans)

Swanson - rut and erosion repair; is there a material out there to help keep repairs in place?; is there a possibility to expand on the NW side of the trail on private property? liability issues would need to be addressed. Creek route is holding; Re-route is in place in case it goes.

Tranquility - Waiting for approval of skills park; no new plans; would like to address the city and see how THOR can leverage using their equipment or their resources for keeping the park mowed.

L&C - Efforts continue to acquire private land.

Manawa - Trash can will be added to parking lot; stickers need to be replaced; build up log crossings on black trails

Platte River - Open gully to it can be ridden top to bottom

Jewel - No new plans; frisbee golf course will be going in this year

Wilderness - No representation

Branched Oak - All areas are considered multi-use; some expansion talked about at area

PONCA - Is there a co-op trail crew up there that would want to be responsible for maintenance? Elkhorn Valley or SC Velo?

IMBA's Visit/New Trail Development - KM

- June TCC visit to Des Moines
- June Trail Solutions visit to Omaha for green space asset mapping

IMBA'S VISIT

Status: waiting for date confirmation. could be June-July

Description:

- *Through funding supported by Trek Bicycles, IMBA will send a Trail Solutions Crew (TSC) to our area to do Asset Mapping. In coordination with Omaha Parks and NRD, they will assess how green spaces between Omaha, Lincoln and CB can connect so that future plans for skills parks or dirt jump parks and other green spaces can be developed along that route, thus leading to the creation of a ride center.*
- *TSC will provide training in master planning and teach the art of trail maintenance and design by actually designing and flagging a new trail system in our area*
- *To become a member of the Trail Design Team, members should send their resume's to roxzanne.abbott@gmail.com by April 1.*
- *Time line for this is mapping, planning and flagging in June/July, cut trails in early fall before riding them by late fall before snow comes*

D. RESTRUCTURE - KM / RF

2:30 - 3:15pm

1. Define current system and reason for proposed change
 - Need for platform that involves membership base
 - Desire for THOR to have a consistent product
 - Utilize Trail Leaders inside of their scope of training
- Develop highly trained trail designers to improve our initial quality of new designed trails
 - Lessen burnout on Trail Leaders
2. Define new system concept (refer to matrix)
 - Trail Maintenance Schedule to address consistent product
 - Schedule to be held on Tuesdays and weekends to include more members
 - Rain Cancellation of Trail Day reported on THOR Blog as soon as possible
 - RSVP requested for Trail Days so TL can assure proper sized crew
 - Anyone can call for a for an emergency maintenance crew when unexpected conditions arise. Group of TLs will put together a date and plan.
 - Easy Button replaces trail conditions table on website for easy reporting.
 - Signs in Kiosk to direct users
 - Reporting on blog portion of website
3. Define roles of Trail Leaders (TL)
 - Have shown competency in IMBA Trail Care Crew training principles or workshop attendee
 - There will be a TL who will be the tool/supplies coordinator for each park and will be responsible for notifying land managers of trail days

- They will work with other TLs to make sure a timely response is given to emergency needs through an EMC
- They will assist in leading trail days on the schedule and will work as a team with other
- TLs to make sure all dates are covered

TRAIL DAY TUESDAY CALENDAR

Add start times and RSVP info

TLs should have copies with them to hand out to trail users who don't know about THOR

4. Emergency Maintenance Coordinators (EMC)
 - First responders to any immediate trail need
 - Can be any TL or team of TLs
 - Will work with Park TL to coordinate tools and inform land manager of efforts

5. Define Trail Solutions Crew(TSC)
 - A. THOR members who are trained by IMBA's Trail Solutions (not trail care crew) in master planning of trail systems and designs
 - Members will form a team to address any new trail design or significant reroute of existing trails
 - Will work closely with stake holders and land managers to design trails that exceed their expectations and are at the same time long term sustainable
 - B. Who gets to be on the crew?
 - Approved by Advisory Board
 - Submit request to Roxy

E. GOALS for 2009 - KM / RF

3:15-3:30pm

1. Train more TLs at Des Moines Conference
2. Select and Train THOR Trail Solutions Crew
3. Identify new park opportunities from Master Asset Plan and develop one new trail system
4. Improve quality of THOR product at all parks under our umbrella
5. Increase opportunities for members to be involved
6. GPS maps of trails

Misc Discussions:

MARKETING / ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

Go-home packets in area bike shops

Visible signs or brochures in bike shops and other retail stores, visitor centers, Wabash Trace, flag taco rider cars

Print generic business cards to hand out to trail users

F. VOTE FOR MEMBERS - RF

3:30-3:45pm

VOTE

Bill Raferty voted in as Secretary. All sitting members remain.

G. MEETING CONCLUDES

4pm