

February 6, 2010

-A **THOR Members Meeting** was held at the National Park Service HQ on February 6, 2010. Approximately 35 members and interested persons were in attendance. Thanks to Rafal Doloto for coordinating access to the Park Service meeting room.

-Roxzanne Feagan opened the meeting with introductions of the **Board Members**:

Co-chairs: Kent McNeill and Ryan Feagan
Operations and Marketing: Roxzanne Feagan
Webmaster: Tom Winfield
Membership: Tim Wieland
Treasurer: OPEN
Public Relations: Dave Packard
Secretary: Bill Rafferty

-Kent McNeill then asked for a brief status of the existing trails from the trail leaders who were present:

-**Tranquility**: Need to continue with normal maintenance. Currently there is much stockpiled snow at the Start/Finish area which may require a temporary by-pass until later in springtime. Omaha City Parks continues to reduce the number of employees so we should expect more maintenance work to be contracted out.

-**Swanson**: THOR will be adding new re-route signage at the NW corner of the Fire Training Facility fence line in order to avoid the NW corner private property. Horse riding clubs should be invited to participate in future trail maintenance workdays. Horses are currently restricted to certain areas of the trail.

-**Lewis & Clark**: No current progress on private landownership issues. New trail Leader needed. THOR will need to re-route a 2-way section at Neverest & add some new signage on the city's property.

-**Platte River SP**: Possible new section is planned for the area near "Ruthie's Point". Otherwise, THOR will continue to repair older sections throughout the coming season.

-**Jewell**: A new trail entrance has been cut in & signed, right off the parking lot. With the addition of the new dog park, there is additional paved parking for the park. Frisbee golf at Jewell appears to be gone. There's talk by the city to open up the bathrooms.

-**Branched Oak SP**: New sections at Area 7 continue to be developed and there are plans for a new Area 7 kiosk. THOR may need to work with NE State Parks to develop an equestrian shared-use agreement for Area 1, similar to the agreement at Platte River SP.

-**Calvin Crest**: Thanks to several hard-working THOR member

and volunteers there is now approximately 4 miles of single-track. Trails will be open to the public this spring except for times when the church camp activities are in session. There is a possibility of a spring training race. Stay tuned for further details.

Kent briefed the group on the IMBA TCC coming in April:

-The **IMBA Trail Care Crew** will visit Omaha April 8th through the 11th to help plan and construct the new urban mountain bike "Gateway Trail" at Adams Park near 30th & Bedford. The long weekend plans will consist of a trail building school classroom session on Friday the 9th of April and in the field on Saturday, the 10th of April, and a social event and group ride will sum up the schedule of events. Stay tuned for further details surrounding this big weekend. The Trail Care Crew will also work with THOR trail leaders to assist with some specific existing trail issues.

Depending on weather & snow cover, the IMBA Trail Solutions "Master Trail Designer" will visit Omaha before or during the Trail Care Crew weekend in order to flag the Adams Park trails. He may also visit other parks to assess assets for additional new trails such as Hummel Park. Up to 4 volunteers can shadow him and see how he designs trail systems and dirt parks.

Much of the meeting was centered on the restructuring of the club into committees. The goal being in order to grow the club, we have to add value. These value adds will consist of non-competitive THOR rides, events and social gatherings. Other value add for example would be to local shops by supplying them with information about area trails that they could give customers. They can be our best sales force! It will ultimately be up to the committees to share the work load to accomplish these goals.

Board members will stay on one more year to see this restructuring through, but a change of leadership is a must in order to breath new life into the organization.

-The meeting concluded with **volunteers and nominations** for the new committee chairs & members as well as open Board seats. The intent is that each Committee Chair will attend Board Meetings and give a briefing of their committee's progress. The Board will conduct 6 Board Meetings per year. Half of those may be in person & the others may be via conference call.

The volunteers/nominations are:

-Marketing Committee

Roxzanne Feagan (Chair)

Tom Winfield
Todd Wixon
Mike Wong
Dave Neef
Cory Kusleika
Greg Shimonek

-Social Committee

Dave Packard (Chair)
Joe Simoens
Mark Rankin
Martin Bixby
Rafal Doloto
Jeremy Cook
Larry Kintner

-Fund-Raising Committee

Kent McNeill (Chair)
Kerrie Peterson
Rich Carstensen
Bill Rafferty

-Trail Leaders Committee

Vince McHie (Chair)
Frank Olsen
Steve D.
Paul Sonksen
Matt Gersib
Dale Rabideau
Chris Price
Todd Matheson
Steve Jarrett

-2010 Board of Directors

President: Kent McNeill
VP: Roxzanne Feagan
Treasurer: Shawn Hansen
Secretary: Bill Rafferty
Advisors-at-Large:
 Ryan Feagan
 Greg Shimonek
 Shawn Hansen
 Tom Winfield

The Members Meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM.

Bill Rafferty, Secretary