

## **rvaMORE Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Date and Time of Meeting: 10/19/16, 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Reedy Creek Nature Center  
Members Present: Greg Rollins, Travis Guilbeau, Blake Puhak, Lisa Lambrecht, Roger Sattler, Marjolein De Wit, Clark Jones, Brandon Montijo, and new board members, Marysa Burchett, Will McQuate, and Kendell Ryan  
Members Absent: Josh Eager, Mike Taliaferro  
Guests Present: Michael Burton – JRPS Trails Manager, Ben the dog  
Purpose of Meeting: Regular board meeting - see attached agenda.

Greg called the meeting to order around 6:15 p.m. and because we had our three newest board members in attendance, we all participated that uncomfortable tradition of going around the table, introducing ourselves and stating how long we had been on the board or have been involved with the club. We are happy to welcome Marysa Burchett (the new Secretary to replace Lisa Lambrecht), Will McQuate and Kendell Ryan to the board and are excited that they will be representing the club in their various capacities.

### **SPECIAL GUEST HEATHER KEELEY**

Some of you may have met Heather at some of the club functions or at events where the club has a booth, such as RiverRock or Tour de Fall Line. She has been an enthusiastic and tireless advocate for the club and recently agreed to head up all things relating to memberships, both renewals and new members. Heather has been a club supporter for years and is really impressed with the dedication of the board, the club members and the work that has been accomplished over the years since the club has been in existence. How impressed is she? She is so impressed that she presented the board with a check for \$40,000 to be used to purchase a Sutter Trail Dozer! That is not a typo folks. You read that right. \$40,000! Needless to say, the board was speechless and we couldn't be more appreciative of this gift. We will have more details about the Trail Dozer once it arrives next week! Thank you Heather! Your generosity is more than we could have ever imagined and nothing that's typed up here will ever be enough to express the club's gratitude.

It was difficult to settle down and address the agenda after that announcement, but we dove in and got to business.

### **TRAVIS/FINANCIALS**

Travis touched on this at the last meeting, but he summarized how he has been spending his spare time with his new Treasurer role upon him and he's been quite busy. Travis has converted the previous Excel based accounting system into QuickBooks. This accomplishes a number of goals. It provides for an easier transition for future Treasurers by providing a single point of access for historical information. Projects can be categorized and subcategorized. Additionally, the program can assist with organizing data to do things like connecting specific grants to specific projects, specific budgets to specific initiatives, etc. It can also provide automated reporting and manage inventory and sales of products among other things. This will also be useful in creating future budgets and projections.

For the numbers, we currently have approximately \$11,000 budgeted for upcoming or ongoing projects: \$2,000 is allocated to the IMBA Summit trip that Clark and Greg are taking, \$3,000 is going to the JRPS slush fund, \$2,700 is being allocated to Dirt Sculpt to provide a site assessment for the Gillies dirt jump park, \$2,600 from the REI grant (to possibly be used to purchase more aggregate for the Poop Loop project) and additional funds for sales and marking purposes (i.e., updated trailer wrap). This leaves approximately \$15,000 in unallocated funds.

Greg put forth a **motion** to put aside \$2,500 for the purposes of providing training and routine maintenance on the new Trail Dozer. Blake seconded and the motion was approved.

## **MICHAEL BURTON/JRPS NEWS**

### Poop Loop

There are approximately 18 areas on the PL that are prone to flooding and poor drainage. 8 of those have been filled with rip rap but this is a project that will take several trail work days to complete. Trail work days are listed below and we will follow up with email blasts requesting help.

### Belle Island – Large Rollers – Over and Out

Progressive Bikes came out and replaced the large rollers at the Skills Park with a mellower replacement. Now, go ride 'em!

### Trail Work Days

Poop Loop: October 29<sup>th</sup>, November 12<sup>th</sup>, December 10<sup>th</sup>

Skills Park: November 5<sup>th</sup>, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Miscellaneous Trail Work Projects

In addition to the Poop Loop and skills area, Michael is planning on working on some bridge projects on North Bank, foot bridges in the Texas Beach area and bridge rebuilding in Laurus Park, thanks to the fundraising efforts from the folks at Outpost who raised \$1,160.

## **MARJOLEIN**

Marjolein, our community liaison, recently met with Grace LeRose to talk about the Reedy Creek Restoration project, to find out why the DEQ feels it's necessary and why others in the neighborhood so oppose the project. The recap is this: In an effort to reduce the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment finding its way into the Chesapeake Bay, the Department of Environmental Quality identified 5 creeks that feed into the Bay that are not meeting current quality standards in this regard. Reedy Creek is one of them. The problem with Reedy Creek is that the velocity in which the water enters the James River (and subsequently the Bay) is too high and needs to be reduced. Why is this happening? The main reason for this is an urban planning problem which stems from water runoff from all of the paved areas on Midlothian Turnpike. Reedy Creek also contains some concrete channels which speed up the flow of the run-off water. One way to reduce the flow is to open a section of the channel and return it to a natural environment. In order to do this, 400 trees would need to be cut down and 7 acres would be disturbed. This is where the community opposition comes into play. In order to address the wide array of concerns of opponents to this project, many agencies and parties have gotten involved ranging from the Army Corps of Engineers to archeologists. It has been repeatedly determined that the area that would be disturbed contains no historical significance, and the majority of the trees (78%) that would be cut down are fast growing trees with shorter

life spans, not historically significant trees. The City has said it would replace all the trees that were affected.

At this point, the City is trying to postpone the vote, most likely until after the elections. There are obviously many more moving parts to this story, but this is the gist of the issue. So, why does this matter specifically to the club? A grand vision exists that would link the James River Park System to Pocahontas State Park using greenways and land such as the area in question with the creek restoration. We need to stay current and educate ourselves on what challenges this project will present and how feasible it will be. Thanks for Marjolein for educating us on this issue.

## **WILL**

Will filled us in on the possibility of developing some of the land at the Henrico Landfill in the east end (next to Oakwood Cemetery) for mountain bike trails. This is very much in its infancy but it's certainly an exciting potential project down the road.

## **GREG**

### Trail Class

A trail class is being held this Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Forest Hill Park at the Stone House. Participants will be taught the basics of sustainable trail building, why we build sustainable trail and how we do it. This is both a classroom and hands on experience. There are 28 people who have signed up for the class. If anyone ever wondered what they are getting from being a member of IMBA, this class is your main answer. IMBA wrote the book on sustainable trail building and the club and park system implements many of their techniques to build trail here in Richmond, while modifying it to accommodate our specific urban environment. We are excited to host such a large group of enthusiasts.

### Gillies

We have allocated funds to Dirt Sculpt to provide us with an assessment and specs on what dirt jumps are, including descriptions and specific drawings (including proper heights and distance between jumps) of what they should and shouldn't be for all skill levels. This assessment will help the dirt jump builders adhere to the standards of beginner, intermediate and advanced dirt jumps. It's more than just mounding up some dirt. It's physics! This would also be a cool way to encourage our youth riders to pursue a career in the sciences. If they knew they could apply this type of knowledge to fun extracurricular activities it might make science look more attractive for some folks.

### Website

Greg, Brandon, and Roger met with Chris Bohle who has volunteered to rework the club's website. One exciting function of the template is a project component that would allow the club to prioritize various projects. Visitors to the site could pick out the project that interests them, donate funds or volunteer their time to help the project come to fruition. We're excited to explore the potential of the new site.

### New Board Nominees

For once in the club's history, our club has reached its capacity of board members in accordance with the club's Bylaws – the current magic number being 13. This literally has never happened before and it's really exciting that involvement and interest in the club is increasing. That being said, Greg felt it was time to consider increasing the maximum number of board

members from 13 to 19. Many members voiced concerns about such a large number of individuals serving on the board and the potential challenges comes along with it. Greg amended his motion from 19 to 17 and the motion was approved. This will allow the board to bring on an additional 4 people who have shown leadership in the biking community and have supported and worked with the club. New board members will be announced shortly.

The meeting adjourned around 9:15 p.m.

\*If you are interested in sitting in on a board meeting, please let us know (email us at [info@rvamore.org](mailto:info@rvamore.org)) and we will give you the what/when/where of the next meeting along with the secret handshake. Meetings typically last from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (Additionally, if you have any questions about anything we do, please email us. We're happy to answer your questions.