

Black Forest Trails Association – Board of Directors meeting

9 May, 2018

Board Members Attending

Larry Fariss
Barb Remy
Andy Meng

Carolyn Brown
Diane Hoover
Steve Eckmann

Cheryl Pixley
Nancy Reinhardt

Others Attending

Nathan Robinson – El Paso County North District Park Supervisor
Calandra Vargas – El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) candidate
Gordon Limb – BFTA member

The meeting was held at the BFCC and commenced at 6:30 PM. Before starting the regular business agenda, we had a status report from Nathan Robinson followed by Q&A, and then a policy and position statement by Calandra Vargas, also followed by Q&A.

Nathan Robinson, status report and Q&A: Brian Bobeck is the new manager working for Tim Wolken.

- Nathan's North District focus now is BFRP: new single-track trails, decommissioning forest trails (too much erosion), erosion control, and fire mitigation. Nathan used game cameras to count traffic, and recorded as many as 1000 cars in one day at BFRP. RMFI planted 1500 seedlings (FedEx was a sponsor). A goal of BFRP reforestation work is to develop a more diverse ecosystem than FRRP (uniform spacing, no meadows, no aspens).
- FRRP: mostly routine maintenance this year; dog park maintenance; trying to revitalize the Friends Group; 28 Eagle Scout projects in the queue. Nathan was asked about dog issues; he isn't aware of any ongoing issues.
- Check out the "Explore Our Parks" videos on Facebook; BFTA should share these links.
- Section 16: not much work planned in the near-term.
- Pineries O.S.: Ross and Jason are working with a contractor; we should not expect any part of the Pineries to open this year, but there is no definite schedule; RMFI working trails.
- EPC has a new app EPC Citizen Connect; check it out.
- At BF Section 16, conflicts occur between horse trailers and cars in the trailer parking area. Dogs also are a continuing problem. EPC Parks dog policy is dogs off-leash are ok if under "verbal control". Best near-term way ahead might be to send emails to Nathan with complaints. Nathan will look into signage reminding dog owners that their dogs must be on-leash or under verbal control. And he will put trash cans along the trail to see if dog owners use them.

Calandra Vargas, policy and position statement, followed by Q&A: Calandra is a long-time BF resident who is running to replace Darryl Glenn as the District 1 Commissioner on the EPCO Board of Commissioners. She stated that she strongly supports trails, parks, and open spaces, and that she would bring to the position legislative experience at the county and state levels. When questioned about the Friends of the BF Preservation Plan (FOBFP), she stated that she supports it in principle, but it needs to be modernized to have any negotiating strength. And she said that, as a Commissioner, she would be more supportive of BF interests than any of the currently serving Commissioners.

Meeting Minutes

- Steve presented minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting. Motion by Nancy to accept with one change (# life members is 22, not 21), seconded by Diane, approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

- Finances are in good shape. For the upcoming BF Festival, we have 9 of each size of t-shirt. And we will have a credit card reader at BF Festival this year.

Old Business

- Free Membership for Private Trail Landowners – Larry Fariss
 - Deferred
- Botolin Trail Signs – Larry Fariss
 - Deferred
- Trail Name Signs – Larry Fariss
 - Deferred
- Gates on Mark Bissel Trail – Larry Fariss
 - Deferred
- Judy V Trail – Larry Fariss
 - Deferred

Ongoing Business

- Hicks-Rathbun Trail – Larry Fariss
 - This is just south of Larry's old property, crossing two properties; one of the properties has a new landowner, who has installed wire fence all around; the Danford property western border might be a better way to connect; Larry will investigate.
- TLUMC Trail Work Day – Larry Fariss
 - In June; Larry will lead a crew working with Nathan Robinson.
- Gazette Article Section 16 – Andy Meng
 - Closed topic
- Section 16 Cleanup – Cheryl Pixley
 - Great attendance; Facebook and email just before. Gordon suggests including a calendar invitation in the email and the Facebook post. All agreed we should do this for all our events.
- Flying Horse North – Cheryl Pixley
 - Nothing new
- Chipmunk Trail – Andy Meng
 - Deferred
- BFRP Bike Track – Andy Meng
 - Nathan confirmed that the bike track is on private property; Andy followed up with the person who complained. Closed topic

New Business

- FOBFPF is looking for support for legal expenses. After some discussion, Andy moved that we donate \$500 to FOBFPF for the purpose of supporting their TimberRidge lawsuit. Seconded by Cheryl. Approved by unanimous voice vote. Andy reiterated that we need to think about how to leverage our assets. Diane suggested a scholarship. The general topic of what we should do with BFTA funds is an agenda item for next meeting.
- BFRP Seedling Planting – Larry Fariss
 - Larry led a crew of about 40 people who planted roughly 900 seedlings. Estimated survival rate should be 50-60%. EPC Parks bought the seedlings from a Montana source via RMFI.

- BF Festival – Larry Fariss
 - Saturday, August 11.
 - Larry got a booth. We will be on a front corner, but south of where we have been recently. Andy will write the check for \$60 to pay for the booth space.
 - T-shirts and hats – no need to buy anything.
 - Andy has investigated a paypal phone device and app for credit card payments; it works.
 - Nancy will contact Judi regarding her EzUp. Steve will provide tables. Andy has most of the other stuff. We will finalize plans at July meeting.
- Summer Newsletter – Larry Fariss
 - Larry – President’s Corner – FOBFP and related.
 - Andy – dogs in parks
 - Larry – reforestation at BFRP; seedlings at Section 16 (on school property?)
 - Cheryl – private trails and liability
 - Nancy – BF Festival; theme: come by the BF booth to learn more about BF area trails.
 - Target publish date: 1 July. Articles due to Andy 10 June.

Additional Business

- After the meeting ended, Larry spoke with Gordon, who agreed to fill a vacant Board Member position. The BoD voted via email and Gordon was confirmed as a new BoD member.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 3 2018 at 6:30pm at Larry’s house.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.