

Trail Working Group  
Minutes, September 18, 2002

Present: Chuck Anderson, Tony Biegen, Allyson Biskner, Cerena Childress, Jim Childress, Ray Ford, Nicolle Fratus, Greg Haus, Kerry Kellogg, Kalon Kelley, Rebecca Martin, Chris Orr, Brian Robinson, Jeff Saley, Sharon Sprouse, Kelly Steelman, Rich Tobin, John Venable

#### I. Opening Statement--Rich Tobin

Rich welcomed the participants and announced that the LPFA would be acting as host for the meetings. On behalf of the Trail Care Committee of the LPFA and the LPFA Board, Ray Ford noted the LPFA Board had agreed to act as host at its last meeting on Tuesday night, September 17.

At this point Rich asked that no tape recorders be used and that the one which had been set up be shut off. There was a concern expressed that the minutes from the first meeting did not reflect exactly what went on at this meeting and thus the need for recording. Rich expressed the idea that what he hoped would occur would be an honest and open sharing of ideas and opinions and it was his feeling this might not occur if the meetings were recorded. After some discussion the group agreed to this.

Ray Ford agreed, as the LPFA representative, that he would take the minutes and provide copies for review to all present to ensure they be as accurate as possible. In addition, it was agreed that the minutes would be placed on the following month's agenda for review and correction. The group agreed to follow this procedure.

#### II. Introductions

Rich introduced Brian Robinson (brobinson@tynangroup.com) of the Tynan Group. Rich shared information about Brian's background and expertise as a mediator. Rich asked the group for its approval to have Brian act as the mediator for the Trail Working Group process. All present were in favor.

After Brian's introduction we went around the table and each person introduced themselves, provided a bit of background about themselves and who, if anyone, they represented.

#### III. Round Table Sharing of Concerns

After introductions were made, since there were quite a few new participants present, Rich asked for each person to share their concerns about the multiple use conflicts (and specifically the problem of mtn bikers, hikers and equestrians sharing the front country trails) which had brought the group together so everyone would have an idea of where each person was coming from.

Comments included (no particular order):

\*A concern about the safety of hikers and horse riders

\*Trails are currently not safe. I worry when I go out and use the trails now because of the mtn bikers

\*The trails are too steep and narrow and only usable by expert riders

\*The only solution is to ban mtn bikes from the front trails  
\*We need to find solutions which everyone can live with  
\*Let's work on a solution which allows all users to continue using the trails  
\*What we want is a safe experience for everyone  
\*The issue is safety and trail impacts  
\*There are a lot of things which can be done short of banning bikes  
\*The problem is the downhill racers and the websites and films which promote the wrong type of use

(please email me any other comments you heard which reflect the sentiments of the group so I can add them)

IV. Safe Trails handed out copies of the Majority Report, by the Citizens advisory Body Convened by the City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation & Parks, to everyone attending along with a list of our personal experiences with mountain bikers on single-track trails.

Jim Childress provided two videos which the group watched, one of a group of downhillers on Tunnel Trail and the other on the Snyder Trail, including a number of riders jumping off the Knapp Castle walls.

V. It was noted that Bren students will be doing a survey relating to user conflict issues on the front country trails and that they are working with Ray Ford, who did the original trail use surveys in the 1980s, to decide how to conduct them. Allyson Biskner had some suggestions of what to include since the City had recently done a recreation survey.

Jurisdiction issues were discussed. It was noted by a number of people that the City, County and Forest Service each have responsibility over different parts of the front country trails and this could cause issues. Ray Ford and Kerry Kellogg noted that a GIS map of these trails is being developed and that we can overlay the trails with color coding by jurisdiction to help out.

#### VI. Questions for the Group

At this point Rich turned the meeting over to Brian. Based on the earlier conversations the discussion turned towards asking a number of question which might be used to stimulate thought and provide "homework" for the next month's meeting. These included:

1) Who should be at the table?

What other groups should be invited? A question was brought up as to whether it was desired that the group be composed of those who represent various groups vs. those who most use the trails.

2) What is the scope of the group's work?

There was some agreement that the group should focus its work on the front country trails as this is where the highest use is and the most potential safety issues might arise. It was agreed this would be one of the topics for discussion at the next meeting.

3) How should we interact?

Ray Ford noted the LPFA could create an email list for the group so we could all interact with one another. It was agreed. The email address for the group is trailworkinggroup@lpforest.org. The list has been set up and thus far everyone has responded back to let Ray know that it is working for them with the exception of: Jeff Saley, Rich Tobin, Brian Robinson, Allyson Biskner, Rebecca Martin and John Venable.

It was noted that one of the main values of the email list could be so that members can share ideas and things they are working on so we can continue to make progress on the issues in-between the monthly meetings.

4) What should our roles and responsibilities be?

Brian noted that at some point, once the group had gotten the appropriate mix of people at the meetings and narrowed its scope, one of the next things to do would be to begin dividing up responsibilities and gathering information.

VI. Next Month's Meeting

Wednesday, October 16 @ 4 PM  
County Maintenance Yard

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:05 PM