

**SUMMARY OF FEBRUARY 13, 2014 MEETING
FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPPORT NETWORK
6:00 PM-7:30 PM, Oldemeyer Center, Seaside**

I. **Welcome and Introductions** -- We introduced ourselves. Representatives from BETA, FORT Friends, MORCA, Monterey Bay Youth Camp, Pedali Alpini, Sustainable Seaside, and other individuals attended.

II. **Group Announcements or Reports**

- A. FORT Friends – Henri advised the group on FORTF activities related to the grant to expand outreach, purchase computers etc.
- B. MORCA— Phil described trail work slated for Feb 22 including an Eagle Scout project.
- C. Visitor Center/Museum Committee – Kay and Ralph described continued efforts regarding the Lightfighter entrance site. Developer now has an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with the City and appears open to this concept. We brainstormed the use of a portable trailer with nice porta-potty rather than using the old thrift shop if fixing up an old decrepit building if that is an issue – possible even share space developer welcome office.
- D. Other—Jane Haines emphasized lessons from the CSUMB Colloquium, where the key benefit of the FONM is not direct job creation, but rather attracting young people and business leaders who want trails and quality environment nearby to their homes (indirect high quality job creation). Ralph described Naturalist Certificate course offered through Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (April 5 field trip at Fort Ord). Eric Pederson advised the group about TAMC multi-use planning efforts for cars, busses, bikes etc.

III. **BLM Announcements** – BLM reps did not attend, but we discussed topics.

- A. Feb-March events at FONM – Feb 15th, Return of the Natives planting project.
- B. Date for Second Anniversary -- BLM decided to cancel this event as they are too busy with other projects in April-May. Thus, we brainstormed how we can get involved with Earth Day events (MPC, Army, others). Another idea was to lead an informal hike from Jerry Smith corridor to Comanche's Grace during Earth Day week.
- C. Goats and Sheep—Goats have been used to control underbrush this year as there has not been enough grass for the sheep.
- D. QR Code Pilot Project – Henri described Jim Ryan's efforts at setting up a pilot project focused on cell phones reading the QR-code and receiving a recorded message, maps, links and trail information. He is soliciting feedback from visitors at the Badger Hills trailhead.
- E. SeaOtter magazine-- Henri described the free ad in the Sea Otter Classic festival magazine that was offered to BLM/FORT Friends about the FONM.
- F. New Welcome Signage—There are new large wooden welcome signs for the Ft Ord National Monument in nine locations; also a special FONM logo.

IV. Meetings and Events Affecting National Monument

- A. County Supervisors (Feb 11)— Art and Phil reviewed the County meeting and action about land sales adjacent to FONM – additional study and input. Henri noted efforts by FORU and other groups to preserve the recreation corridors (Whispering Oaks and nearby areas). Next County meeting on this is March 18. Decisions must be made and report to the state by April 18.
- B. FORHA (in future) – no action yet on County trails master plan.
- C. Other – Art hosted Supervisor Calcagno on a tour of Youth Camp and Jerry Smith access corridor and explained this vital recreation area. Eric Pederson suggested the idea of a campground at Jerry Smith rather than another business park.
- D. April has Sea Otter Classic April 10-13; PG Museum wildflower show, MPC Earth Day April 22, Army Earth Day April 24. May has bike week, bike month and the Amgen Tour of California in Monterey on Wed May 14. Also Friends of Fort Ord Warhorse event is May 3. All these are opportunities to have a booth to describe FONM and volunteer opportunities. It was suggested that MORCA host extra beginner rides during bike month.

V. Current Issues

- A. Feedback on bike bells – MORCA asked the group for feedback on tinkling bells on bikes and providing a box of bells at trailheads to promote safety. Non-bikers said they would appreciate the bells. We also asked Eric Palmer to advise the running community of importance to wear only one ear bud or keep the volume low so a runner can hear other trail users.
- B. Marked trail loops – Henri described MORCA's interest in marked trail loops and signage indicating the number of miles back to trailhead etc (Bend Oregon is a good model). The group liked this idea.

VII. Expanding Outreach, Calendar and Volunteerism for FONM

- A. FORTF webmaster uses BLM calendar info – we asked attendees to e-mail FORTFriends about events so they can go on the master calendar
- B. Volunteer Groups on FONM – we discussed ways to advertise group activities better.
- C. Public Service Announcements – ideas and opportunities such as Eric Palmer's film about FONM shown on AMP channel
- D. Traditional Media Opportunities—we liked the idea of a calendar (perhaps a photo contest) or a mini-film fest or photography gallery showing; Your Toown in the Herald and others; .
- E. Social Media Opportunities – Facebook page has 288 likes to date. Eric Palmer suggested a You-tube channel in the future; and a photo gallery. These all take someone to administer the site.
- F. Meetings—we brainstormed ideas for guest speakers such as wildflowers in April, Bobcat lecture in May—send your ideas!

VIII. Follow-up Tasks

- A. Suggest New Groups or Organizations (provide contact info)

B. Meeting Agenda Ideas (topics, speakers, etc.)—send in ideas

VII. Next meeting: Thurs, March 13, 2014 at 6 pm at Oldemeyer Center

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