

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of**

### **The Freewheelers of Spartanburg and Freewheelers Cycling Association (September 9, 2024)**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Freewheelers of Spartanburg and the Freewheelers Cycling Association was held on September 9, 2024, in Room 209 of the downtown campus of Spartanburg Community College. Present at the meeting: Karl Johnson, President; Mike Bonner, Vice President; Marshall Walsh, Secretary; Jim Hines, Treasurer; Member at Large, Kelly Verdell; and Bob Higgins, Membership Director. Also present were Steve Verdell, Pablo Pena, Larry Hart, Greg Kyzer, Cheryl Miller, Joan Glynn, Paul LeFrancois, Mary Higgins, and Dave Coggins. Karl Johnson acted as chairman and called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

#### **Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting**

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Copies of the proposed minutes had been distributed via email prior to the meeting. After careful review and upon motion duly made, seconded and unamously carried the minutes were approved as presented.

#### **Ride Calendar**

The chairman then reviewed the calendar of upcoming rides. He noted that the website will be updated when eastern standard time returns and ride leader will adjust their evening rides accordingly.

09/14/2024 Miles for Mamograms, Holston Creek Park, Inman SC. Members of the Club were encouraged to support it.  
10/05/2024 Tour de Pumpkin, Rutherfordton, NC  
10/06/2024 Cowpens Overmountain Victory Trail ride Cowpens Battleground to Gaffney  
10/19/2024 Gran Fondo Hincappie, Greenville, SC  
10/26/2024 Tour de Paws, Spartanburg SC

There was also a discussion of a possible joint ride with the Greenville Spinners at Boyd's in Landrum. It was anticipated that a fee would be charged to cover expenses and a number of concerns were raised regarding who would be collecting the money, who would receive any unspent funds and who would be responsible for any deficit. It was suggested that that the organizational details could be worked out in a zoom call and this call could be open to all members of the Board who wanted to participate. There were concerns that there might not be enough time to work out the details. A motion was then made for the Board to withhold its approval of the proposed ride until after the organizational details were worked out and communicated to the Board. The Board could then vote on the proposal via email. The motion was seconded and approved.

#### **Safety**

Next, the Board engaged in a general discussion of various safety issues. The Chairman reported that on October 3, 2024 BikeLaw will present a program on Bike Safety at Piney Mountain Bike Lounge 6:30-7:30.

Recently there has been a number of incidents in which riders have been injured by inattentive or angry motorists. Several participants raised various concerns about riders engaging in unsafe practices such as listening to music on earbuds and taking calls or pictures on cell phones. It was also suggested that due to increasing traffic so of the ride routes might need to be adjusted. There was no general agreement on whether these issues should be dealt with as voluntary guidelines or mandatory rules and how these rules/guidelines would be enforced. Ultimately, Dave Coggins offered to discuss with Mike Forrester a review of the current safety rules.

### **Membership Drive**

The Freewheelers 2025 membership drive will begin in October. New members joining during the drive before the end of the year can pay dues for one year and will have their membership paid up through December 2025.

### **T-Shirts and Kits**

The Chairman reported that orders for 15 kits and 43 T-Shirts had been received. The Kits will be shipped in the near future. The cutoff date from T-Shirt orders will be September 13.

### **New Meeting Location**

The chairman reported that RJ Rockers has a meeting room that would could accomodate 20 person that could be an alternative for future meetings without charge. They are not open on Mondays so the meeting would have to be moved to Tuesdays. Spartanburg Community College has begun charging an annual fee for use of the current meeting room. That fee has been paid through July 2025. Several members of the Board expressed the view that having the meetings at RJ Rockers might encourage more of the membership to attend monthly meetings. A motion was made to hold the October meeting at RJ Rockers on a trial basis. This motion was seconded and approved with Mike Bonner abstaining.

### **Christmas Party**

A Christmas Party has tenatively been scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2024 at Holiday Brewing in Inman. Full details regarding possible cosgts were not yet available so Board action was deferred until the October meeting

### **Officer Reports**

Paul LeFrancois reported on updates to the Trail arounda Lake Whelchel near Gaffney in Cherokee County.

### **Freewheelers Cycling Association**

The Board then considered business of the Freewheelers Cycling Association. Larry Hart presented a number of possible alternatives to the Assault on Marion and Mount Mitchell for Spring 2025. See Exhibit A. After a discussion a motion was made to investigate further a possible ride to be held in conjunction with Spartanburg's Spring Fling. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board.

A motion was then made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly made, seconded and unamiously carried.

Respectfully submitted

Marshall T. Walsh, Secretary

# Exhibit A

## AOMM ALTERNATIVES

1. "Assault on The BRP and Assault on Marion": Same Marion ride, 74 miles. AOB RP— approx 110 miles...ride to Marion, up route 80, turn right/north on BRP to Little Switzerland, right on 228, back to Marion.
  - a. Longer, less climbing
  - b. Easier logistics, but still a destination ride
  - c. On weekend
  
2. Spring Fling of Spartanburg: one day Fondo from Ballfield downtown, more ride options (35, 62, 100). Start and end at Ballfield with after party.
  - a. Fondo style
  - b. Easy logistics
  - c. Weekend event
  - d. Could do a running event at the same time
  
3. One-day Fondo from Equestrian Center with multiple mileage options
  - a. Fondo style
  - b. Weekend event
  - c. 40 miles away
  - d. ?Trails?
  - e. Easier logistics vs AOMM
  
4. Multi-day: 2 day ride...road on day 1, road OR trails at Southside Park on day 2
  
5. Long-term: joint venture with Festivelo. 3 days of riding in S'burg. In Spring.