

Minutes of a Meeting of the Directors of

The Freewheelers of Spartanburg and Freewheelers Cycling Association November 4, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Freewheelers of Spartanburg and the Freewheelers Cycling Association was held on November 4, 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 and Member at Large, Kelly Verdell. Also present were Ken Watts, Steve Verdell, Dave Coggins, Pablo Pena, Cheryl Miller, Paul LeFrancois, and Greg Kyzer. Karl Johnson acted as chairman and called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were forwarded to the membership along with the notice of the meeting. The President reviewed the minutes and after discussion the minutes were approved as presented.

Freewheelers Cycling Association

Larry Hart was not able to attend, but Karl Johnson reported that he is working on several dates and routes for an alternative ride for the Assault on Mount Mitchell. He is also working to obtain use of the new downtown baseball field when the baseball team is playing out of town.

Safety

Dave Coggins made a presentation on proposed changes to the Club's standard Safety Rules and Guidelines. He reviewed the history behind the development of the Rules and the need to maintain a safety culture as a part of each ride. His primary suggestions were to divide the Rules into mandatory requirements (e.g. helmets and rear daytime blinkers) and recommended practices (e.g. front headlights and being open to safety feedback). There was also an extended discussion of the use of earbuds and telephone use while cycling. It was agreed that the Rules and Guidelines should be condensed with the mandatory requirements first, followed by suggested guidelines and then the COVID/Health reminders. Based on the discussion, Dave will circulate a revised draft of the Rules and Guidelines for further discussion at the next meeting. Enforcement of the Safety Rules will be a topic for future discussion.

It was suggested that members be requested to read the Safety Rules at the time they join. It should be stressed at that time that one of the benefits of Club membership is the safety culture.

Greg Kyzer noted that we need to keep track of car counts during rides as the higher the number of cars on a given road the greater the risk to riders.

Rides

Karl Johnson reported on the Tour de Paws ride, (held on October 26) was successful. Although the number of riders was down a bit from previous years, there were no major

mishaps. To increase participation in the future it was suggested that there be more pre-ride publicity prior to the ride next year and that other clubs be notified and invited to attend.

Karl Johnson also mentioned that he had heard of a proposed ride called the Rock and Roder Ride to be held the last week in April. He will pass on further information to the members when it becomes available.

T-Shirts

Karl Johnson reported the he had received the new Club T-Shirts and was in the process of distributing them to those who had ordered.

New Meeting Location

The Club had secured the use of the meeting room at RJ Rockers for the first Tueaday of each month through April 2025. Karl Johnson noted that the use of the room at Spartanburg Community College would continue to be available as a back up and he would check to confirm if it might also be used for possible committee meetings.

Christmas Party

The Club's Christmas Party will be held on December 12 at Holiday Brewery at 6:30 PM. The dinner will be Dutch Treat, but the Club will provide each member a beer ticket. Those attending will need to RSVP and will be asked to bring an unwrapped toy.

Membership Drive

The membership drive for 2025 is ongoing. So far approximately 50 members have renewed their membership. Karl Johnson noted the the pace of renewals usually picks up as the year end approaches. After the end of the years, he will send out an email to those who have not yet renewed.

Officer Reports

Jim Hines reported that the state and federal tax returns had been completed and filed. He also gave a report of the balances of the Club's bank and investment accounts. He noted that Freewheelers Cicyling Assocation accounts were kept on QuickBooks Online, but Freewheelers of Spartanburg accounts were still being kept on QuickBooks 2017, which is no longer supported. This made compling information for the tax returns problematic. He suggested that the Freewheelrs accounts be migrated to QuickBooks Online, but noted that there would be an additional monthly expense of \$35.00. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the use of QuickBooks Online and the additional cost for the Freewheelers of Spartanburg accounts was approved

Mike Bonner asked about the status of giving away the old Club T-Shirts that are curently in storage. It was agreed that these should be donated to any group providing assistance to those in need. Karl Johnson has several leads that he follow up on.

Paul LeFrancois reported developments on the trails at Lake Whelchel. The parking lot is being paved and approximately 2 1/2 miles oif trails are being added. Work may also begin soon on a path beside Highway 11 connecting Chesnee and the Cowpens Battleground.

Adjournment

There being no further business and upon motion duly made, seconded, and unamioulsly carried, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held at RJ Rockes on January 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marshall T. Walsh, Secretary