



# COGGS Board Meeting

## June 8th, 2023

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**Attendance:** Dave, Nikolai, David, Dustin, Ansel, Mason, Erin, Abby, Carrie, Jake

**Time:** 6:10 - 8:30

**Agenda:**

Recurring Items:

- Approval of Last Month's Minutes - approved
  - [May Board Minutes](#)
- Treasurer's Report
  - Winter Grooming Donations
    - Additional donations of about \$3400
  - Corporate Sponsorship
    - Northern Oral Surgery has renewed sponsorship - Thank you!
  - Member Proceeds
    - Up about \$500 from last month last year
  - Insurance
    - Equipment insurance including new canny com is only major expense.

Agenda:

General

- Interim Executive Director
  - Congratulations and welcome Ansel as the interim executive director!
  - Discussion regarding weekly hours. Current proposal is .6 or 24 hours a week. Would 40 hours a week help COGGS as a whole? Ansel would be able to use extra time to build Hartley trails. Ansel expresses that he would be interested in working at 40 hours a week.
  - Board discussion - Group is generally in favor but want to ensure that all COGGS work is getting completed and not just paid trail work. Only certain amount of hours that are focused on trail work. Could keep original contract and then add 16 hours that could be focused on trail work purposes.
  - Board approves addendum of 16 additional hours to be used to complete COGGS machine and hand built trail work.
  - Board asks Ansel to track hours and specifically where he is spending his time. Weekly update to the board of directors. Short and sweet email.
- Lester River Rendezvous

- Asking COGGS to have a table at the event. Does not feel like a correct fit or expense for COGGS at this time.
- Insurance Coverage
  - Got workers comp insurance lined up.
  - Other excess insurance items have been removed that we no longer need.
  - Have Marshall school insurance and need to talk to school to see if that is still needed.
- Sponsor window stickers
  - Brought topic back of window clings for sponsors. Need to get a method of getting stickers out to corporate sponsors.
  - Work towards handing out in person if possible to increase personal connection with sponsors.
- COGGS Swag items
  - Lots of stickers and stem top caps that can be given to riders at the COGGS enduro events.
- Striders
  - There was a grant through Grandma's to order striders. Ski Hut to order the striders. Ski Hut Sponsored fleet to bring to different events that COGGS will have access to. Dave to follow up with Bobbie from Ski Hut.
- Denfeld Bike Camp
  - Week long camp/clinic in July. Looking for assistance to teach maintenance and basic skills. Carrie to look further into the event and make social media post for volunteers.
- June Newsletter going out on Monday
  - Enduro Schedule - Dustin to send to Carrie / recap
  - COGGS Trail Challenge - link from website to be included in newsletter
  - Announce Ansel as Interim Executive Director - Dave and David to complete short write up.
  - Bike Duluth Festival volunteers and racers sign up info
  - Trail maintenance hour competition & how to submit volunteer hours on our website - Good to go!
  - Race Across Duluth - Link to webpage
  - July 4th traverse ride
  - Board Member openings:
    - Volunteer
    - Trail
    - Secretary
    - Rides
    - Vice Chair

## Trails

- Hartley Skills park
  - Final alignment and approval done. Ready to build!

- Jim Shoberg presentation on scope of Hartley projects
  - Jim has shared spreadsheet regarding costs and bids for Hartley
  - Pines loop - about half mile of trail but will have significant cost with built features. All kid and beginner friendly. Trying to avoid speed and jumps.
  - Risk of logging efforts. Currently not being completed, but machinery that performs logging can do significant damage. Important to have moveable features so they are not damaged if logging comes to the area. Logging is currently a coin flip.
  - About 10 pre built features throughout the loop.
  - Machine costs for destroying old trail, building new trail,
  - Ansel has talked to local company who may be willing to build and donate some of these features.
  - Total trail cost estimate is around \$52k. Opportunity to work with volunteer crew to help decrease overall costs and do some of the pre work. Could save approximately \$5k.
  - Rock knob - Climb up to rock knob would need machine assistance to re route the rocky climb.
  - Marshall stree connector re route - Flooding damage on a bridge damage. Potential to have federal funding cover the replacement cost. Segment has been eroding and sending sediment into drainage area. This has created whoops. Would need to complete hand built re route of these whoops sections. This will require a machine built trail. Various options regarding how to complete the re route. Erosion would be difficult to stop and may need re routes. Best thought process is to complete re route with ladder drops. Whoops would be removed.
  - Rock knob and Marshall street connector could cost \$30k total, but some of it would be able to be completed by Hartley volunteers.to help offset cost. Volunteers could save a total of about \$10k.
  - Could be completed this summer with machine help. Not a chance without the big machinery.
  - Will need to relay information to Hartley crew as soon as possible to help organize summer trail building.
  - Priority or Marshall Street and Pines loop. Both projects have strong support from City of Duluth and COGGS membership
  - Could put trail work out to bid to the contractor. Can make “a la carte” requests with contractor pending volunteer work.
  - Bid out Pine and Rock Knob trail segments. Ansel to complete Marshall Street as a paid employee.
  - Pines loop bid out as a whole. About \$27k estimate for build. Board approves.
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- Keene Bike Park
  - Ryan Olson has started up the work nights again
  - Hopefully have a few lines up and riding in the next couple of weeks.

- A lot of opportunities depending upon what we want to pursue. Asterisk as the interstate is quite loud and creates some concern.
- Hopefully showcase need for more bike parks.
- Spirit Mt.
  - Construction on a new trail started last week. This trail will allow for more of the hill to be open to public during bike Duluth fest. Could also allow for more stages to be run at one time in the future. Line is parallel to Wrecking ball and T's into Blaster. Dark blue rating.
- New CanyCom back in service
  - Still waiting on cargo e bike...unknown time frame.

## Events

- Craft connections
  - Event was wonderful!
  - Willing to continue with a 50/50 split. Raised \$300. Vote to donate back to the organization and work towards more fundraising efforts moving forward.
  - Tom at Duluth Grill is hard working towards making it a larger event.
  - Willing to donate to the Gala and help maintain the relationship.
  - Positive relationships are most important.
- Share the Shred (Spirit/City)
  - Partnership with City of Duluth and Spirit Mountain for kids. Opportunity for underprivileged kids to be able to ride mountain bikes and learn. 3 nights on the schedule. Continental has a few individuals interested in helping. Previously had DEVO coaches involved to help. One date does coincide with Brewer Enduro.
- Trail challenge
  - Through trail forks to complete various trails in Duluth for "badges"
  - Has to go on Ride log through trail forks.
  - Will start tracking automatically, no opt in required.
  - Has to connect through Strava, Garmin, or Trail Forks. Garmin connected to Trail forks is recommended.
  - No entry fee required.
  - Everyone who completes a "badge" would get a prize. Larger raffle for one lucky individual who has completed one of the "badges".
  - The more the merrier! Share on social media
- Bike Duluth Festival
  - Bike fest long course set
  - Last meeting is next Tuesday at Spirit Mountain.
  - Enduro race stages are set and ready to go.
  - Carrie to order new COGGS poster boards
  - COGGS information booth with handing out large supply of stickers. Become a member at the event and get a top cap, t shirt, or buff.
  - Specialized and Rocky Mountain will be there with Demo Bikes
- New COGGS timing system
  - Has been a lot of interest in using timing system for various events.

- Need to get trained by Dustin for use if he is unavailable.
- Worked wonderfully at the first enduro
- Every event needs a waiver to make sure chips are accounted for.

## Governance

- Executive director
  - Saline Landscape has offered to build and donate several of the prefab features for the Hartley Skills loop ~ \$3-4k/ feature - \$15-\$20000 in savings for the skills loop.
  - Local businesses and individuals are willing to donate skid steer for the Keene bike park - \$800- \$1500 in machine time
- Comments from the community about a public portion of the board meeting.
  - Looking for more transparency on finances
  - More communication!
    - Links to meeting minutes, newsletters, polls shared more widely?
    - How to shorten the communication gap with the community.
    - Ansel taking videos and posting to website and social media
    - Return to quarterly membership meetings. 3 member meetings and annual membership meeting.
    - August membership meeting at Grand Avenue Chalet. 6 to 7:30 board meeting and 7:30 to whenever membership meeting. Ansel to discuss trail updates and Q and A. Open to other presentation ideas.
- Collaboration opportunities and efforts with other outdoor organizations
  - Developing regular conversations with other trail organizations to help work together
  - Working with DAOA and developing relationships.
  - More representation is always needed and or appreciated. Newsletter or social media post asking for representatives.
- Open Board positions
  - Volunteer, Trail, Secretary, Rides, and (Vice) Chair
  - Have verbal confirmation of individual who would like to be new fundraising director.
  - Send direct email from members who expressed interest from Little Green Light.
  - Diversity within the board would be appreciated

## **Cyclists of Gitchee Gumee Shores**

PO Box 161261, Duluth, MN 55815 • (218) 382-4822 • [COGGS.com](http://COGGS.com)

*COGGS is dedicated to developing and maintaining world class mountain biking opportunities for all in the Twin Ports.*

COGGS is a volunteer-run 501-c3 nonprofit organization and an affiliate of [IMBA](http://IMBA).

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