



MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

March 3rd, 7 p.m.

Jokers Wild

Lynn Thee called the meeting to order, at 7:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Lynn Thee: President. Sheila Mealey: Vice President, Joan Scheffer: Secretary, Jake Kolb: Treasurer, Rachel Ambrose, Lynn Lee, Kim Stickler, Ginny Fay, Aneill Fisler, and Cindy Arnott

Excused: Jennifer Kendall, Valerie Knudsen and Vicky Balfour

Unexcused: None

Guests: Don Linton, Mary Osellame, Drue Kerns

Old Business:

Minutes of last meeting approved: Rachel moved, Sheila seconded. All agreed. The flatbed trailer was purchased from Lolo Trailer sales. They threw in a bearings pack, wiring check & fluids and lubrication. We will send a "thank-you"-for the donation. Cost was \$1195.00. A photo of this is on the website now.

The Park license plates were voted on by the board via e-mail and costs were a part of that vote. The new plate artwork was purchased by Lynn Thee and designed by Sheila Mealy after there was some discussion on the one that was previously submitted (referred to as Plate B). There was also one with a color variation on the design of Val's submission (Plate A). The vote was 9 for Plate B and 1 for Plate A, so the submission of Plate B was approved by majority vote and submitted. All of this occurred as a result of the state moving the submission deadline up to March 1st instead of April 1st as originally noted.

New Business:

Financial Report: Jake is resigning from the board due to time and work conflicts. He can remain for one month and help train replacement. Will be willing to volunteer at times. Joan motioned this regretfully be approved. Rachel seconded. All votes "Aye"

Discussion on hiring accountant ASAP. 3 or maybe more interested. Letters in from Gretchen Dunn @ \$55.00/hour, Cindy's Mom, Joanna Knudsen @ \$25.00/hour or a set monthly amount (she currently does the books and recordkeeping at Bill Brown, DVM- works with Lynn Lee-and comes highly recommended.) Lynn T. read her resume letter. She is also interested in Park and horse activities. Lynn Lee mentioned that Joanna is moving to Lolo soon

and is looking for some additional part time work. Ginny recommended a friend, Janet Surrenna at \$24.00/hour).

Sheila motioned and Joan seconded that the Board hire an accountant. All votes "Aye".

Ginny felt that having someone who is interested in horses and had horse experience could possibly also help at the events to track money and act as book and record keeper. Jake said that we should be sure to have whomever is chosen bonded and background checked. It was discussed whether a formal interview needed to be done and if we were obligated to open this to more bids. Others felt we had qualified people interested but that anyone could recommend others if they wished. Joan said that we need to step this up so that Jake could help initiate whomever was chosen. Jake said that Eunice and Jake should both meet with the new accountant.

It was motioned to proceed with Janet Knudsen, by Rachel with Sheila seconding. All votes "Aye". Interview of Janet and ironing out detail will be done with involvement with the financial committee and the executive board.

Rachel presented a copy of the MEP storage upgrade proposal. It has many options. The builder put together for consideration. It was felt by the Board after much discussion that the best was the replacement existing fencing with 2 wooden gates and if that goes well, option to also then replace the other bays gates (2 more). Cindy motioned and Joan seconded that we allow no more than \$1000.00 to get gates up and usable, since we need to be able to properly store the new trailer and jumps. Members voted for this, but Rachel will need to discuss it with the builder. Points: Lynn T. We want security and it to look nice-remember the Tower Street Plan! Make sure anything new complies with that plan. There has never been much vandalism at the park (gate locks tampered with or stolen, bums sleeping in stalls) Sheila would really like us to follow through with some BSSC things that were promised a long time ago and not spend too much here right now. The LABOR on the gates and proposal is FREE from the builder which is wonderful!

Guest, Don Linton, was present and proposed an offer to the Board to trade having a permanent signage banner like sign place in the park with permanently or up at every event (depending on regulations) for his real estate business in trade for making new jumps for the park. Cindy brought up that permanent signage is not allowed, but per events certainly was. Drew discussed with others what was needed. Don would make \$800.00 worth of jumps for this deal. What types and sizes the jumps needed was also discussed. (Cups, Heights, Materials, Sizes). Ginny wondered if we were selling other signage space and Sheila and Lynn said this has always been done in the past for various events, but they are removed following the event. Don was okay with this being the case. There was a move to accept this concept and to let the English Committee be involved with what exactly will be wanted and constructed. (Cindy Moved /Sheila Seconded) All votes - "Aye". It is expected that an update from the English Committee be presented about this at the next meeting. Don agreed.

Don also talked briefly about the Park Insurance which Lynn T. and Sheila have also been working on. Getting pricing and coverage rates is ongoing. Don offered to have someone he knows who does our type of needs insurance to look into rates, but he will need the “declaration page” of the current policy, and actual items covered. Lynn will provide these. Sheila has been looking at another source, Ginny brought up the current agreement and clarified that there was no conflict in pursuing this. The fee for current insurances was paid in full for a full year, but can be refunded if changed. Jeff and Eunice did a lot of work on this.

The Board needs to define a plan of the charges for advertising and be sure it is presented the same to everyone. Need to define what the cost is, what is involved...some groups will bring their own signs and remove them when done-do we charge for that? Cindy said usually with business wanting to advertise. She felt about 25 banners already exist and are stored at the Park. A thought was the fee was currently \$250.00, but the contracts from last year need to be retrieved and reviewed to get an answer.

Aneill brought up a good idea for Thank-you cards. She said if she could get a good photo she could print some off to have available as needed at minimal cost to the Park funds. It would include the address and logo, as well as contact information and could be easily adapted to whoever should receive a card of Thanks. She was will to take this on and will look on the webpages for suitable photos, and perhaps make a variety of cards. She will make a “mock up” of one and present it to the Board next Meeting.

Cindy spoke about the upcoming events at the Park so far. The mini events are in place for April 25 with a clinic the 26th, June 13th and September 5th are in place and have little wiggle room. A concern was the Sept. Labor Day dates, but after looking it over, it seems about the only makeable date without many outside conflicts. Drue explained the full calendars of the people who attend these and how hard it is to be sure to give the highest chance of good participation at the ones at the Park.

Cindy noted the idea of the Western Jackpot series of Barrel Racing on June 6th (dry run open), Series on June 27, July 25 and August 29. Omoksee cannot happen unless there is an announcer stand in place-so that event is tabled for now. May 2nd MHJA jumping event, because of this our Park work date is moved to April 18. May 17 is a 4-H Clinic, May 29-30 a dressage clinic.

Lynn brought up the advantages we are gaining from the NW Power-line easement proposal. She presented a map and details about her meeting with them (and Bill Bucher). The boxes can be moved any place within 100 ft. in any direction. Only one looks to be a problem. Lynn bargained for getting POWER to the western events arena and this was agreed to. There are 6X6 foot pads for the base of the Power boxes: 3 are along the fence, one is by the power station and out of the way, but one is out from these areas and will need to be addressed, due to the danger to horses if left open or if covered by bushes. A debate came up with the best answer being a post and pole square fence placed around this that could still allow the access of the Power Company, but shield it

from horses. We are going to ask BSSC if this is acceptable and explain the reasons for concern. Rachel asked if there could also be power set up to the dressage arenas, as well. Lynn will ask about it. Lynn is negotiating an exchange for any available used electric wood poles to be given to the Park in an exchange for part of the fee for going through the park. These can be used for many things including parking barriers, jumps, etc. It was discussed and agreed to get as many as they could get to us. Power Co. will bring in. There is still more money (cash) that may come in from this agreement. Lynn will update after the meeting she has with them. The Power Company wants to do this project in 2 weeks in May. They won't work on weekends.

The ADA parking map was looked at. Ben and Lisa M are meeting tomorrow about this. We can get the COT people to help out in building the area for \$200.00, but not until Fall. BSSC will most likely pay for all of this since it adds better park access to disabled folks and better adheres to ADA regulations. Sheila, Cindy, Kim and Lynn T. meet costs: \$1300.00 for the Trail fix, a 20x20 Parking area. Total \$1500.00 for all. We need to confirm what the MCH will be responsible for as far as maintenance. The new path around the Park will be 5 feet wide. Knife River quote is ADA approved. Who will provide weed spraying and rock work? Sheila motioned and Joan seconded that we proceed and work with BSSC. All voted "Aye".

After a meeting with BSSC they listed the TOP 5 things they would like to see the Board attending to as far as Park use and upkeep. There was concern about the 4-H arena having different rules from the rest of the Park. This was due mainly to it being a dedicated park from the Briggeman family to be used by the county. They wondered if the East gate could be left open and not locked? This seems unreasonable for Park security. Lynn is working with Lisa Moise to create a clear plan of action for this area.

Cindy continued with events this year. April 18th is now the "work day." The rest follows and a schedule is found on the website that will be updated as more comes in. April 25th: mini event with clinic the 26th. Some basics were then discussed: on two day events (jumping or using barrels, poles, etc., these can be left up if the arena gates are locked. They must be stored when the event is completed. A note needs to go out to the membership that they cannot use an arena that is locked. Arena rental fee is \$100/day. We compromised with a \$15.00 rider fee for folks who are not park members. Paid members are not charged this fee. There was a discussion about clinics by clinicians after events (as in this April one) and how we assure they have insurance and are covered for any accident or injury. It was discussed that if a clinician has insurance and is covered for the days of any clinic, that we need to be sure the riders in the clinic are also covered or are Park members in good standing or pay the \$15 fee. Cindy moved and Aneill seconded that we use this format for clinics. Motion passed favorable votes from all Board. April 26th Ann Ward Clinic/Sarah Mitlander (May 24, July 5, Sept. 27) May 2nd MHJA show: Benefit for the Park (yearly event)
Big Sky Government class want to do a volunteer work for the Park. Cindy will look into Work date change.

5/7th 4-H Clinic 1400-1700

5/29-31 MDCTA (Missoula Dressage and Combined Training Assn.) Clinic (Marge Harper) This group donated the funding for most of the cost of the flatbed trailer and often supports the Park.

6/6th Jackpot BR

6/13th mini event (move membership BBQ?)

6/27th MBHA Barrel Race

7/25th MBHA Barrel Race

July is pretty open, try to get more: Play day? Aneill and Cindy? On a Sunday?

August 7th thru 10th Hunter Jumper Show/Clinic

August 21st: Warm Blood registry Inspection (Warmblood club)

Aug. 29th: Barrels

Sept. 5: Mini Event

4-H on Tuesdays 1800-2000 June, July 4-H arena, they have 4-H insurance, mostly mounted with horses.

Cindy has an Eagle Scout interested in a project at the park and willing to work. He will make a presentation next month

Talks with Western Montana fair about hosting some of the horse events due to a better arena and parking for these. May move some 4-H events this year and all in years to come.

3 buckle series (May 16th, July 26, Sept. 12) was discussed and Cindy has a great outline and list of jobs for Board helpers. She needs an announcer, in and out gate stewards, and arena stewards. Set up and take down help. Joan, Lynn and Aneill want to help, others need to sign up.

Awards cost for ribbons and buckles, est. \$600.00. High Point Award at end for Youth and Senior.

MEP Omoksee (Penny Bucher) August 15th Western Events Arena. Park is hosting, Penny Bucher running it.

Need to be sure on equipment: Pole, Barrels and covers, Electric Eye, Timers, Announcers stand. Would include Western and English Equitation/Pleasure and Walk/Trot classes. Barrels, Poles, Keyhole events.

NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Maintenance Report: no input other than Mt Power line updates, Insurance reimbursement for a damaged fence that a car hit at the Park.

License Plate picture; Lynn T. had to pay \$72.00/ Park should reimburse her. P.R. committee to follow up on full purchase and possible use of Val's design for other MCH uses and payment to that artist.

Mary O. talked about a possible survey idea and when it is best to send this. It could go out with a membership letter. Ginny felt it best to be sent near the end of the year, because not much can be changed now if membership has concerns or complaints. Discussion of how to increase membership and knowledge that the Park exists to more folks. Board to get any different info to Gini for contacts and e-mails from Board members for website and newsletter.

The Link on FACEBOOK needs work!

Aneill talked about how hard it is to get volunteers from UM groups unless there is some reward offered...food, t-shirts, something. They don't want to "just do it". It was felt we could reach out to FFA groups, 4-H groups for Volunteers and work help

The Montana Equine group listing is up for renewal, Rachel moved and Sheila seconded we do this if \$200.00 or less cost.

Sheila had a request for a lady in Victor to host an "Amazing Race" Competition at the Park.

She will follow up.

Sheila moved and Joan seconded the meeting close. All "AYE".

Joan Scheffer submitted 3/9/2015