



MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL BOARD MEETING AUGUST 11TH, 7 p.m. Missoula Equestrian Park

Lynn Thee called the meeting to order, at 7:15 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Lynn Thee, Sheila Mealy, Joan Scheffer, Lynn Lee, Kim Stickler, Rachel Ambrose, Ginny Fay.

Excused, Cindy Arnott, Aneill Fisler, Valerie Knudsen

Unexcused: None

Guests: Bill Bucher, Susie Mayer,

The following attachments were sent out to members prior to the meeting 8/11:

- Kim and Ginny: Park support letter, donations to western arena with explanations: reviewed and edited
- Treasurers report from Joanna K.: Reviewed and comments below in notes
- Previous minutes: reviewed and edited per Rachel's information (see below)
- Sheila updates on License plate activities: Press release on plates
- Lynn T; Agenda for tonight
- Ginny F.: Updated Park Proposal: weed and park land management, vegetation plan
- A design proposal for web-site: Mundy Meguire

Minutes from past meeting were corrected as mini event information was with Kim and not given to Rachel as was incorrectly notes in minutes. Voted for correction. Moved Sheila, seconded Rachel: Approved: all

Treasurer's report: The board would like to get more details to be able to identify more clearly where individual payments are going and what those payments are linked to. It was thought that a landscape format print out may include this information, but we will visit with Joanna to see what is possible. Ginny brought up the need for a system that is very easy for auditors to get information on financial tracking. Shelia suggested we have a "real" financial committee and Ginny also offered to be on the Finance Committee since it has lost members. Lynn T; reminded everyone that we need to present specific budget details with any committee proposal and update the outcomes once events are completed.

The wording on the application for partnership consideration on the license plate income should read "net profit" dispersal instead of revenue profit. Ginny changed this tonight.

These motions were approved by the board, Rachel moved, Joan seconded all agreed. Lynn T was going to talk with Joanna about the reports and what the BOD would like to see on them.

Rachel reported for the English Event committee. It was discussed by Susan M. and Rachel A. that the mini event could greatly benefit from a mounted rider or two who could get results from the field back to the event judge more quickly (after each jump division) and be showy for the MEP. Everyone agreed this was a wonderful idea and that some of the BOD children may be very interested in doing this. (Lynn T and her girl's ponies). The new crosscountry course is getting completed with much help from Bill B., Susie and Drew. Susan said she needs to walk and measure the course and will complete this in the next week or two. All the jumps are good to use and look very nice. The jump trailer was carpeted and also looks nice. Lynn T got a 3-ball stinger and painted it so we have all the ball sizes we need available.

Bill told us the Omoksee flyers are out and Penny is looking for more volunteers to help her. She was unable to attend the meeting, but will send out a message to the membership on this. This event is August 22. This will be in the Western Events arena.

Cindy told us the Buckle Series event was very successful (show #2) and brought in \$1687 to the MEP. There was much positive feedback about this event. The third and final part is on September 12.

There was not report from the MHJA show as yet, but Bill said he had a lot of problems with folks driving and parking on the grass areas. He had to manage this a lot.

Kim: Western Arena update: we need to schedule when to get this done and how to finance things with Knife River. They need to make the mix for the arena footing and that takes some time for them to create. Kim said they have said would currently take until November to do this. This cost for the project is at least \$20,000. The BOD is hoping to use the payment from NW Energy on the new line they put in and also to send out for support from the membership (Kim and Ginny's letter seen above).

Sheila said the license plate project could also help here. That should see income soon as the plates are now available for purchasing. Several of the BOD have already got them! Sheila handed out flyers, keychains, stickers and some shirts to the BOD and it was later discussed to use these materials as gifts to the longstanding members and supporter who are discussed in the homecoming "Parade of Champions" idea below. We all need to promote the license plates everywhere and anywhere we can.

The BOD discussed the best ways to get the western arena project done. Several past ideas of auctions and arena building materials options were discussed. Lynn T brought up that the loan for the arena from previous footing work is \$80,000, which has a monthly low interest payment. Lynn T. and Kim will work to get specific details that are needed for us to move forward on this. We all agree that this arena needs to be used and be usable for higher level sanctioned barrel racing and other western events at the park. They could do team sorting and team penning, but the animals (steers, cattle) used cannot stay overnight at the park as per a prior agreement with the neighborhood. Ginny and others talked about the possibility of re-financing the loan if it would help. Kim also wanted to get detailed information from Jolene Burke and Jamie Harkins at NBHA to be sure we will get their approval for shows. Lynn T, Kim and those two will try to meet together on it. The letter going out to the membership was discussed and revised. It was felt there needed to be a clearer explanation regarding the expenses that were needed and the details of the costs of that. A discussion was made about what would be needed to mix the arena materials properly and what upkeep would be needed to sustain the quality once it was completed and fixed.

Ginny felt we need to be a bit more generous in giving away memberships to the park for specific donations or big efforts on groups to get involved in the park. She also suggested discounts for groups hosting events at the park, and that we could offer Webpage advertising for some as well as Arena advertising, memberships, and practice runs for a fee that would go towards the western arena costs.

Originally a lifetime membership (which is no longer offered) was \$300. This is way too cheap! We may want to look over the list of lifetime members for a new donation, since many of the use the park a lot.

Rachel mentioned that the Schuler's had gotten a donation of an arena cover at one point that was to be auctioned towards a Park donation. Is this still out there somewhere? No one really knew.

The NW Energy project went very well, Lynn T. reported. We need to re-check on their telephone pole donation and get those to the MEP. She is not sure when the payment for that work will be in the hands of the MHC. There was a bit of damage to the walking trail from this project, which could use a bit of work. The ADA plan has been approved and will happen in the Fall. (Knife River materials, COT labor).

A "burn section" was added to Ginny's vegetation proposal by suggestion of Sheila. Ginny mentioned that these burns actually make weed growth worse. This proposal is long overdue from MHC and Ginny will present it to BSSC on August 18th. It will be sent out to the BSSC and County board membership and the Parks and Recreation BOD prior to that date so it can be reviewed. A copy should also go to Lisa Moise. It is an outstanding research effort by Ginny and her team and answers a lot of concerns. Ginny did a wonderful job in managing and creating this for us. Lindsey from the weed district was impressed with it and

endorses it. The weevil harvesting area can be removed (Small fenced off area near ball fields) since it is no longer used. Lynn T will call to be sure Ginny is on the agenda since she cannot be there until 1900. They will get the proposal out to all who need it.

Sheila M. was very happy about the new license plates and the income they may be bringing to the MEP. She showed off the flyers, keychains, shirts and stickers and asked everyone to work on promoting this to the public. It could be a very good income resource for us. She has worked very hard to make all this happen and has done a great job. It was noted that one can get sample metal plates for \$10. Perhaps some sort of "magnet" plate could also be made? The discussion was made about the BOD and Park changing the name of the park to Big Sky Equestrian Park or Big Sky Horse Park. There is nothing restricting this name change as far as our bylaws state. We would like to have the Missoula Horse Council (still MHC) instead of Horseman's council. All agreed to this change. It was felt that the founding persons who have been staunch supporters of the park be contacted about this. Susan M. knows many of them and Ginny and she will begin contacting them about it. Sheila provided some license plate "bling" and shirts to give to these supporters. Sheila has us signed up to be in the Homecoming parade on September 26th in Missoula and we can use the jump trailer for a float. Ginny and her cart pulled by her mini donkey can lead us! We would like to get 6-8 adult riders (over 18 with solid bomb proof horses!) with a Montana and an American flag to ride in the parade. Bill has some of the stirrup attachments flag holder cups we can use. We could use maroon and white wraps on the equine's legs and wear the license plate shirts. We could have some of the newer nice jumps on the float decorated. The theme of the parade is "Tradition of Champions," so Rachel, Sheila and Susan came up with an idea to honor all of those "founding fathers" of MEP and have them ride on the float or in the parade as the "Champions of the Horse". The Harpers (Dan and Marg), Smoke Elser, Rita Baumgardner, Roberta Brady, and many others came to mind. All agreed this is a great idea. We can work on the float and do a "practice run" sometime the week prior to the event. We can use that great license plate banner that was made and also advertise that plate and tie in the "Ride the Big Sky" theme. It is hoped we can get the name change done and note it here, too. Rachel has looked into the big sign out front at the park gates and it would cost about \$600 for the name change there. This will be acted upon at the September meeting as more information will be available and the people can have their time for input into this. It was mentioned that it will be good to be sure our horses are okay with Ginny's mini donkey and cart sometime prior to the actual event-(maybe out at Brady's arena?)

Aneill was unable to attend but did get the new Thank you cards. Lynn T would like to see these get done as soon as possible and will be contacting Aneill and getting cards and names out the BOD to get these written and sent. Aniell is also working on the stall cleaning and management this week.

BSSC meeting gave the go ahead on the crosscountry course-thanks to all who got this done so quickly after our error (Rachel, Susan, Bill, Drew, Lynn, Sheila, etc)

Lynn T has gotten an application for service to get the western events electrical tower in place. We had granted \$500 towards this in a prior meeting. Cost will run about \$300, it is thought. NW energy needs to approve this. The BOD approved Jennifer Kendall's resignation for personal reasons. Sheila motioned and Rachel seconded all approved.

The upkeep on the website was discussed. We had some applications and input. It was felt that Joanna needs to follow through with a more complete application if she wants to do this. We need protocols for keeping track of funds that come in over the website. Ginny explained the process a bit and the importance of all this on line activity being correctly tracked and managed. PayPal has specific uses and methods. Do we need to go with what is currently done until the end of the season or get a web designer on this now? We can get it designed and turn management over to someone or hire the web designer and pay them to keep it up. It was decided to keep it as is for now and look into changes soon. Joanna will be asked to meet with a professional who does web design to ask about specific needs for MEP business. Ginny moved and Sheila seconded to get bids in and make a decision soon. All agreed: Joanna to meet with Jennifer Kendall and get all information and software from her, be sure items are on the MHC computer fully, check on the payment fee on the current webpage, and on who is hosting that webpage now. Sheila and Lynn will look into this.

Meeting was adjourned- moved by Joan, seconded by Lynn L. Agreed.
Next meeting to be at MEP in September.

Submitted by Joan Scheffer 8/15/2015