



MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL BOARD MEETING May 5th, 7 p.m. Perkins Restaurant

Lynn Thee called the meeting to order, at 7:09 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Lynn Thee, Sheila Mealy, Joan Scheffer, Lynn Lee, Kim Stickler, Cindy Arnott, Jen Kendall, Rachel Ambrose, Valerie Knudsen, Aneill Fisler,.

Excused Ginny Fay,

Unexcused: None

Guests: Joanna Knudsen, Bill Bucher

Review of last month's minutes by Lynn T. contained the following: Introduction of accountant Joanna K., Rachel can so the next mini, but not the September one. Sheila and Joan are working on training with Rachel to be able to manage the September event. Vicki Balfour resigned from the BOD. The cost of the ADA parking and parts of the trail plan will be about \$1,500 split between The Park, BSSC and Parks dept. Jen K. was approved to get new software for the web page and look into cost or the "cloud" per month. The Amazing race event will be charged a \$200 flat fee for park/arena use. August 2 is the date for this new event. Sheila has been working with the organizer on the event.

Minutes were approved by Sheila and seconded by Rachel. All members approved.

The workday was a huge success. There were 26 volunteers. Many projects got done and look great. The round pen had the needed lumber donated by Cenex - thanks to Lynn. Unfortunately someone left a loose horse in the pen and a rail was broken during the mini event. It was discussed that people have noticed loose horses in the pen in the past without people being near. We need to police that better and not allow loose horses to be unattended in the round pen. There was a lot of ground work clean up weed pulling, jump repairing and overall maintenance done. Some of the jumps still need to be painted before the next event. We will try to find a member day to do this.

Treasurers report will be tabled until Joanna arrives at the meeting.

Lynn T. presented a handout of the MHC Insurance costs and comparisons. Total insurances costs are \$6,016.84. The handout has a breakdown of all the costs. We have a new Agent: Alesia.

Rachel reported good success at the first Flying Colors Mini event held April 25th at the park. There was lots of great help and things ran smoothly. There was good attendance and the prizes for the winners were popular. Next mini events are June 13th and Sept. 5th. Rachel can help on the second date, but not on the third. Sheila and Joan are working with Rachel to be able to do the third date without Rachel. She has it all very well organized on the computer.

ENGLISH COMMITTEE REPORT: Rachel

There was a discussion on the jumps Don John was going to get made along with the budget for the Mini Events. Don John does not have as much time as he thought he would to complete the jumps. He had already gotten materials for them. Don John is moving to Portland, so it does him no good to trade for advertising, since he will be gone. Discussion about covering the cost of the materials for him and he said he could finish things for \$600.00 (approx.). We had approved \$1000.00 maximum earlier. Joan commented that we need to get these done before the next event. Cindy stressed the value of Don John doing them as he knows what is needed and what types of jumps to build. We can pay the \$600.00 and still come out pretty good. Joan moved and Val seconded that be done. Membership all approved.

There is a training show that Jude McKenzie would like to put on at the Park at no cost to us. This would be a “walk through” of all the events, what competitors need to be aware of an the timing of getting you and your horse ready for each. This would include Dressage arena manners, for participants and volunteer helpers and other important event information. She wants to do this without people bringing their horses. She is donating her time and expertise for this. May 30th is the proposed date. We may broaden it to be a more global information event hosted by the park and open to the general public. Some horses may be brought in for demonstration purposes. Jennifer is going to post highlight on our website about it. Rachel has talked with Jude about it.

If people are having lessons and instruction in the park, we need to be sure they (instructors) have insurance in place and riders are members or sign a release and pay the day fee. Jen K needs to be aware and post who has insurance in place and how they can be contacted about lessons at the park. We can endorse them on the website if they have given proof of insurance. Everyone thought this was a great idea and gives them a benefit of getting insurance in place. Jen will send a blast out to the membership on this. She will see if instructors want to advertise and make that happen on the site. It was mentioned that Drue and Carol Nichols are up to date on this. We are not sure on Laura Bakker and others.

We need to require the mini events to have a defined budget for each event. In effect, all events need to be doing this. There should be a bottom line of income

and outflow as well as some profit for the park itself. Sheila will go to the next English Committee meeting and help on budget organization.

WESTERN COMMITTEE REPORT: Kim

Kim has done a lot of legwork on the improvement needed to make the newer western arena usable by sanctioned events. She got the analysis and they think the current sand can be used if masonry sand is added to it in the correct amount for the footing needs. Kim has talked with the western event governing body and knows what is required. She will contact them again to be sure if this is done, that they will be willing to put events on in that arena. It was mentioned that if the sand was being removed, Drue wanted it placed in the current warm up area. This is tabled as we think now the sand will stay in the arena. Kim said that approved footing means a lot! Professional rodeo and others call it the “best to go” footing and we want to have that in our arena. Kim will re-contact the governing body for assurance they would use the arena if it passed these standards. It was felt that the clay could be mixed with the sand currently in the arena. The analysis cost \$350.00. LS Jensen said they can make the mix. A gradation Sheet can be filled out for approval. The sand has been sent in for approval/analysis.

The layer of sand varies in depth from 3” in some places to up to 8” in others, North to South. We will need to level things first. The target is 8” overall. Knife River can do a laser analysis of the arena to see what needs to be done to make this happen. The base was done by the COT originally. Kim will see about checking the levels and what needs to be done, if over \$200 cost, she will contact the BOD to let them make a decision. We need to make this happen ASAP to get some events going in that arena. Bill knows some other contact sources if needs and Val mentioned Mike Welling, who has done her arena and did very good work. Kim may contact him, too. LS Jensen may donate some of the work.

Cindy talked about the “Buckle Series” and has it well underway. She had come up with a nice new buckle (Molly’s Custom Buckles) to use as the award and will research it for cost and quality. She asked Jen to get the dates up on the webpage and start advertising this. She had a list of events and age groups she shared. Dates and the entry information should be posted on the website. Jen. K will work on this. The original budget was \$600.00 for the event. Cindy has gotten ribbons and nice awards for each show plus the overall buckle idea for the high pointers. There is a \$5.00 cost to nominate for the High Point, so not everyone has to be tracked. We need volunteer judges and lots of helpers for these events. How and were to run the Trail Classes to save time and set up was discussed. Cindy will try to get event patterns to Jen to post on the website. Dates are June 28th July 26 and a Saturday in September.

It was brought up by Cindy that we need to better police how stall cleanup is done and be sure it is done. Cindy has spent a lot of time in the past doing this and it has become too much to do for her and also run the show. Aneill said she would be willing to help out for the summer until school begins again as she tends to be around the stalls already. Bill needs to be notified once stalls are

cleaned. We decided the standard should be that the stalls are stripped bare if they were used. Most groups charge an individual stall rental fee of \$25.00 and then take \$10.00 of that out for a money-maker for the group. Cindy wishes to resign from the role of event manager, although she will organize this buckle series.

MHJA August Show: A letter of understanding between the Park and MHJA regarding jumps, rental fees: currently \$100.00 per day. We plan to get 12 new rails, 4 new jumps and the proper type of jump standards and holder. Cleaning of stalls should also be addressed here. Rachel will work on this with the English Committee. A note that stalls are now numbered.

ACCOUNTANT TREASURER'S REPORT; Joanna and Kim

Kim has been helping Joanna with the treasurer's job and getting things to and from the post office and park to her. There was a \$2000 profit from the Mini Event. However there was an uncharted \$4000.00 amount paid out for license plates that Joanna discovered, so the report does not look as good as it should due to that big amount outgoing. Currently the balance is \$18637.00 for the Park. Membership has generated \$3000 for this year so far. There was a \$4623.30 dollar amount generated from the mini event (gross). Profit for the month was \$2400.00

Joanna worked on organization and balancing things. She estimates her pay to need to be about \$525.00 for this month. It will be less next month now that things are organized. She found a lot of items buried in the bottom of some of the file boxes, including a "for deposit only" stamp. She really needs to purchase a signature stamp to be able to get payments out in a timely manner without needing to wait on signatures. Cost is \$42.60. She will purchase this soon. Thanks to Johanna for doing a great and difficult job!

Kim shared some invoices with Johann from her findings.

Some discussion evolved about the following: The truck licensed but not insured currently, it should not go out on public roads. Culverts were previously approved for upgrade by the BOD at an executive meeting, which cost \$220.00. Bill said the small ditch by the 4H arena needs new culverts as well, which he can do.

The English Committee will work on where volunteer forms go-we can only cover registered volunteers. Forms should go to Johanna. We can do electronic copy or send via e-mail. Details to be worked out by the committee.

We need to see if volunteer hour pay can be covered by Mt. State fund and get an estimate on that. We need to be sure the BOD are covered under the volunteer policy, too. We do have Professional Liability Insurance in place for the BOD.

Saturday May 16th: Marge Harper is sponsoring a Western Dressage informational clinic. There will be walk through lessons (on foot, no horses) from 10-12 and a Riding clinic for \$50 from 1245-1430.

Rachel said how run down the drop box is at the park and that it badly needs an upgrade soon. We also need more signage out there. We need to coordinate signage with the BSSC due to restrictions.

Aneill is working on the Thank-You cards and should have them ready after finals week. Please make a list of who needs to get thank you's and get it to Aneill,

The 4-H club with Cindy finished up the work on the round pen. The Big Sky Government club did come out and do some work but was split up in other areas as well as the park. They did some weed pulling at the boxes and 4H arena.

Nick Holden meeting with BSSC for weed spraying at the park. The BSSC also wants to do the Baseball fields. Lynn will try to get some Park spraying along with this or pay for it in addition.

We can do a controlled burn, but need to turn in dates.

We have noticed some gopher hole issues on the cross country fields. We are not allowed to control them...but sometimes things happen to them....

Jennifer discussed how to best proceed with the Website/Facebook. She wonders how much effort should be put into what is there now or should we start over. A lot of the links are very inconsistent and make her have issues getting things accomplished without running into road blocks. She has been unable to find out how things were set up initially. Jen could amp it out and correct it, but software upgrades are needed and Adobe cost is \$42.00 per month with Web posting \$95.00 per year. We need to be sure we can use and implement Pay Pal and have it be usable. We all agreed we need a USABLE WEBSITE ASAP! It was thought we should try to keep it simple to get through current events and activities and work toward a more modern looking a user friendly site by 2016. Joan moved and Aneill seconded we proceed with webpage as it now is and design a new one in 3-6 months' time. All voted yes to this.

License plates: Sheila: hopefully out July 1st. There were some art issues on the plates that needed editing.

GIVE LOCAL was May 5th, donate today up until midnight, Sheila reminds us.

Next meeting June- at Perkins, First Tuesday in June. July meeting will be second week of July 14th.

Joan Scheffer, 5/14, 2015