



# BIG SKY HORSE PARK

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**MISSOULA HORSE COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING  
Oct 6<sup>th</sup> , 7 p.m.  
Perkins Restaurant**

**Executive Committee meeting 6:00 – 7:00 pm**

The Executive Committee (Lynn T. Sheila M, Joan S, Kim S.) met to discuss the proposal for an “inflatable Race” at the park next May. Sheila has been speaking with them and the event is set for May 14, 2016 at the Park. Income should be substantial from the race itself - which expects over 3000 entries- to vending items and spectator parking intake. (Est. at least an 8-10,000 dollar profit to the park). They will come in and set up on Friday and have all down and off the property by Sunday. This is an international race that was held at UM successfully last year. The organizer was seeking a different venue in Missoula and likes the park location.

Lynn discussed the lease agreement and some wording that must remain as it is stated. Lynn has been meeting with the County (Lisa Moisey), to get it completed. This is a 10-year lease.

Lynn and Sheila discussed recent BSSC meetings and needs for BSSC. The year has been productive and the relationships with BSSC greatly improved over previous years.

Kim arrived and the new proposal for the western arena upgrades was discussed. Kim had sent out her reports to the BOD and discussed them with some folks at the workday. It was felt that the money to be granted by the NW Energy for the line they put through the park could be tagged for getting the arena project under way. It is important to act now, as equipment is currently present at the park that can be used to help with that upgrade and the mixing involved. Lynn would need to write a specific letter tagging the NW money to go to the arena park improvements. That amount is \$8000.00.

**GENERAL MEETING:** Lynn Thee called the meeting to order, at 7:10 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Lynn Thee, Sheila Mealy, Joan Scheffer, Valerie Knudsen, Kim Stickler, Rachel Ambrose, Ginny Fay, Aneill Fisler.

**Excused:** Cindy Arnott, Lynn Lee,

**Unexcused:** None

**Guests:** Bill Bucher, Drue K, Joanna K

The minutes from the prior September meeting were misplaced and will be resent to the BOD by Lynn once Joan can resend them to her electronically. Minute's approval will wait until minutes are out.

Financial Report: Joanna K.: JK sent report out to BOD. It was a good month with income from the Buckle Series, Mini Event and Omoksee. She provided reports to the BOD and went over these at the meeting. Some new memberships for 2016 have come it already! She has reconciled the Waddell and Reed account, which currently has \$104,860.00 in it. The interest from this account was originally meant to go towards maintenance work and grounds keeping at the park (approx.\$600.00/mo.). There is \$8000 in Savings and \$11,241 in checking now.

There was an uncashed check that never cleared from the Park to NW Energy, the bill reads it was paid but this check has never gone through. JK will check on this. We need to back up the Quickbooks Data and this can be done by use of a flash drive or an external memory. JK's brother is able to do some maintenance for a fee of \$30/hr. Lynn T. thought she had an external drive we could use for this. (She would donate it). It was agreed that it was important the drive be backed up. Joan moved, Sheila seconded that we do so. All agreed. Motion passed. Ginny offered to pick up the computer from JK at the Vet office after it is backed up to do maintenance on it as it is running slowly and not switching programs well currently.

There is a remaining issue with a participant in the mini-event who has unsigned checks (around \$160.00 total) that we cannot deposit. A member knew that this person is well known for doing this and not paying. She has been unable to be contacted and her father was also contacted with no result. Rachel said she would note the name for future events and require upfront payment. The person is known for entering the event late by calling in the day before. Lynn will attempt to contact the father once again.

It was decided that we add a \$25.00 non-refundable fee for returned checks or lack of funds on the Park Event entry forms to help with these type issues. JK brought up that the Septic pump people we use once or twice a year were being audited by the IRS and that we would have to pay the IRS instead of them, which is a hassle, bookkeeping wise. The BOD also needs to get some accounting numbers to a CPA from the BSSC/Parks-Lynn and JK will follow through on this.

Rachel moved and Ginny seconded the accounting reports be approved. All voted in favor.

Rachel reported that the past mini-event went extremely well. Jumps were stored for the winter. There are quite a number of older (but still usable) jumps that may benefit us to be put into a yard sale for private users to buy come spring. We have newer models that have replaced these and there is little use for them at the Park now. The course changes and water issues need to be completed by the Fall. Susie and Mary had worked on the but it was felt that Mary had a better rapport on this with the Ditch Rider (Tim), who had become a bit miffed about things recently. Lynn asked that Mary talk to Tim to straighten out any concerns or misunderstandings there. As some history, Lynn talked about the fact that the ditch is a private ditch and there have never been any issues with the Park using it and we have never been charged a fee for use. We should write a thank you along with a proposal that defines our use so it is all clear. Rachel will look into this and have Mary speak to Tim. Bill, Susie and Drue have previously staked out an access point at the ditch.

Western Events: Penny was not present to discuss the recent Omoksee, but it was felt it went very well and a number of BOD helped run the event. It was felt we can put off buying new pole bases for pole bending until next year as we just have one more event and we have one set we can use. The next event will have a Halloween theme and costume contest and is set for October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Park. Facebook ads will go out this week. Entry forms are up. Time is projected to be 10:00-3:00 at the Western Events Arena. It is a "fun" event benefiting the Park put on by Penny Bucher. Help is needed from all BOD for this event. Please contact Penny if you can help out.

Kim and Lynn spoke about what is needed to revamp the Western Arena and make it user friendly for barrel racing as well as other events. It was felt if enough of the proper sand mix was added to the areas the barrel racing uses, we could save a lot of expense since we would not need nearly as much of the masonry sand to make this work. (Only need about 1/3 of the original est. amount.) Both western arenas need to be dug up (ripped) mixed so the clay base that is there mixes in with the sand. This takes a very heavy duty deep cultivator disc and machine. It needs to be tanded and remixed and watered to get the right texture to the footing. There is currently a machine being used for another project at the park that could be ued and Lynn has discussed this with the operator who is willing to do it, if it happens soon. If we could use the money from the easement that NW Energy has paid to get the "barrel sand" area done (which included a distance beyond each barrel and the run areas of that triangle and run out region) we could get that started now and have a good arena by

spring. Kim researched this a great deal and it is felt the arenas will need to be worked up every 2 weeks. After the initial digging up our current tractor and attachments should be able to do this. Kim is willing to do this but we need to be sure the Park Insurance would cover her if she drove and help out. We could start having “barrel training” and Practice nights for fees and raise money to support this project. Bill noted that it takes about 10 hours to fill the water truck for use.

Joan moved and Val seconded that we go ahead with the project using the NW Energy grant money plus \$1,000 – Total \$9,000.

The BOD all voted in favor of this. A big thank you went out to Kim for all her work on this huge project.

The recent western events that were held in that Western Arena went well in September.

The proposal needs to go to the county as a request for the NW Energy funds to be put to use for this upgrade to the arenas and why it is important to the future events for this to happen. Lynn T. will do this. It would be good to draw a time line out for this project for this grant. Kim and Lynn will work on this.

Lynn said that the cost of getting a full power box to the western arena was \$1400. She also knows an electrician who could set up a meter box for us. Cost of a meter is usually 6-8 dollars per month. This is still a work in progress and we will use a generator for the next event there on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Lease agreement: Lynn met with Lisa and others to get the lease refined and done. The wording that we had wanted cannot be changed as it occurs in other contacts for the group. It is a 10-year agreement. They assume the Horseman’s Council will renew and would give them the higher consideration, but it must be left that other groups could apply in the future. We need a number of the jumps we have for the X-country course. Rachel and Drue will get this to Lynn. That will be the # of jumps that can be maintained by the Park, so we want to be sure we list a good number for a full slate of events and levels.

We can re-arrange the sites, but we would need to get approval for any new jumps. We agree on painting and maintaining jumps, we will get a selection of earth tone colors that could be used and asked that those be the only colors that can be used on jumps. Val K. agreed to go get colors at a paint store for us. This will save us trying to match former colors on jumps. We decided 6 colors would be a good number to choose from.

We need to get the name change of Missoula Horse Council on the lease.

Ginny wanted to finalize the vegetation plan she has worked hard to develop. It then goes to BSSC and the Parks Dept. for their final approval. There was a minor issue concerning the mowing of cheat grass and when that is most beneficial to getting rid of that plant. We should change some wording on the lease to define parking barriers and have “hold harmless” wording to all liability to “horse related” items. The gates into the park may be better if they were walker access only and horses could not get through unless we had locked gates there as well. We have seen neighborhood horse entering and leaving the park through said gates and they may not be paid members.

Lynn mentioned we must keep the 2 million dollar liability insurance.

NW Energy did a good job of re-grooming the areas they worked in. They are going to put pole fences around the boxes that were put in with gates that can be accessed. The ADA access trail and pad is getting done.

Bill has blown out the water systems and the only working park water is the faucet by the stall area.

We should consider doing two member outreach workdays per year and get the neighborhood involved, too.

Website: Rachel and Karlie have been working on this. It should be up and more finished this week or next. Needs passwords for google so Karlie should contact Jennifer K about that. A newsletter about the name change and other items should go out with the nominations form for BOD elections. We agreed that doing this electronically would be best if at all possible. Nominations should be out by Nov. 15 and back by the 30<sup>th</sup>. Voting happens in November. Paperless, ballots, newsletters and entries are a wish we all have for the Park.

Ginny had an idea for an addition to the medallions used for park membership with the current year on a small tag that could be added to the medallion ring and changed each year. Maybe a different color to each year as well? Rachel needs to order new tags and well check on this. It is important the order be for as many as possible to save on multiple shipping fees. Ginny will work with Rachel about this. We all liked Ginny's idea.

Ginny got word about a matching funding grant on the radio and is applying for it. She will get a statement from Lynn and have it completed. It is provided by "Destination Missoula" and she feels we have a good chance of getting a part of the money offered.

Facebook administration: Sheila, Rachel and Ginny are working on this and getting name changes done and out.

There have been a couple of issues with stall cleaning that Aneill and Bill have had to deal with. One stall user dumped way too many bags of shavings in the stall and it was a mess to clean up. We need strict policies for users and limits on # of shaving bags used (2 maximum). We also need to hold the refund if there is any issue at all with the cleaning. It was noted that whoever is managing the event puts out the stall assignments. We need to get a way of stall checking and cleaning that works so the BOD members are not having to do it. Aneill has had to use a lot of her time for this. We talked about hiring a barn person or having that person's pay within the entry fees.

The BOD had a discussion about attracting people to run for a board position. It felt that the BOD people devote a lot of time and effort into park projects and meetings. Sheila has looked into the possibility of granting the membership fee be given to BOD members in good and active standing after a year of serving

well on the board. We all felt this was a great idea and would attract more people to the board. It was noted the amount of help BOD members has giving on events, workdays and the parade this year. Joan moved and Sheila seconded we go ahead with this idea and check to see that there are no policy issues restricting it. Joan and Sheila will work out the details including the qualifications for receiving the membership and what that should entail and require. Members noted that there were some people interested that would be swayed if their membership became a paid part of the BOD duties. For the election those returning who will remain on the ballot are Lynn T, Sheila M, Joan S., Kim S, Ginny F, Aneill, F, Rachel A, Lynn L, Possible new additions: Sheila Miller (Rachel) Vanessa?, Drue Kerns. Cindy A. is undecided. 4 spots are open currently.

No BSSC report as Cindy was not present. Sheila and Lynn did discuss what they knew or had heard from Cindy.

Special Olympics wants to use the park for their Equestrian Events May 17-20, 2016 Pricing is being worked out. Sheila is dealing and explained the Inflatable Run for May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Park. This could bring in great revenue! Upwards of \$8-10,000 could be brought in to the park and it would most likely become a yearly event. Great work Sheila!!!

The meeting was adjourned.

JS 10/11/2015