



BIG SKY HORSE PARK

**MISSOULA HORSE COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
September 1st, 7 p.m.
Missoula Equestrian Park**

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

Excused: Ginny Fay

Unexcused: None

Guests: Bill Bucher, Penny B, Joanna K

Last month minutes approved: Val moved Rachel seconded, all in favor
Treasurer/ Accountant report: Joanna sent records out to BOD today. She can provide more in depth information as was requested by the BOD last month. Quicken has had some issues she has attempted to remedy with the help of her brother. Connection with the other drivers is cutting in and out and things must frequently be reloaded when this occurs. She will look into the possibility of a more permanent fix for this problem.

Joanna mentioned that numbers are good but expenditures were many and should be carefully monitored and evaluated as to most necessary and so on. Lynn Thee again mentioned the importance of budgeting things and having a plan of action the makes sense for expenditures. Joanna has gotten through the old files that she needed to access and records are looking much better now. Kim has been helping with the work on treasury items and checking mailbox at the park. Lynn suggested the Executive Committee meet to refocus major goals and set a budget for the remainder of the year. Joanna mentioned that losses need to be recouped ASAP. A good yearly budget needs to be followed so we do not have so many emergently needed expenses that are voted on during each month. Many of these things have been towards MEP improvements and the license plate offering. Actual spending for accountable items need to be better defined well and planned for, not just done when the need emergent. **The Executive Committee agreed to meet soon, before our next regular BOD**

meeting. Sheila moved and Lynn Lee seconded the treasurers' report be approved. All were in favor.

Penny needed reimbursement for ribbons for the Omoksee that she had purchased (\$68.00). Attendance was low due to smoke in the area, but all had a great time and the Western arena was used. Equipment was gathered for this and worked well. Pictures have been posted on the website and were sent to the BOD. Penny said there was a request to host another Omoksee in October and she is willing to do this. Cost would be minimal as things are in order to be able to do it now. October 17th was chosen for this. Penny thanked Kim and Carolyn for their help on the Omoksee.

Rachel and Jennifer Kendall and Joanna will work to get the Web page information (log ins, passwords, programs) straighten out so the Webpage can be handed over to the new person and book keeping can be properly accomplished. The need for the site to have an on-line store was thought to be a critical part of this endeavor.

The BOD has looked over applications for the Web Designer and decided on Karlie Slayer; who replied as follows: *"Thanks so much Sheila, I am excited to work for you and your organization. Yes, I think going forward getting in touch with your web person would be great. I totally understand tight budgets in a non-profit organization and I don't want to leave you guys hanging by any means. We will get this up and running the way you'd like. I think an initial meeting in person with whoever will be approving design and providing content would be good. I am free next week except for the 9th. Who would you like to be involved in the design review process and what days and times work for you? I can be pretty flexible and make myself available. I will spend some time doing market research and researching some design themes, and try to come to the table with some ideas and direction. If you guys have a look and feel you are drawn to I am always open to suggestions. During this first meeting we can put together a realistic timeline and assign some duties. I will work on having a framework for that in place as well, prior to our meeting. Thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to meeting with you. Please let me know if you have any other questions. Thanks again! Karlie Slayer 406.240.4118*

On Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 8:51 AM, <sheila@wyomingwoodfloors.com> wrote:
Hi Karlie-

We had a board meeting last night, and everyone liked the look of your work and your proposal, so we have voted to move ahead. The biggest question is: how do we proceed? I'm assuming I need to put you in contact with the current web-person, so you can get passwords, etc for the domain hosting. What exactly does our \$1500 get us? A complete redesign, ability to accept payments, and some training of the person (s) that will be doing the updating, is what we would like to see. As a non-profit, we have a very tight budget, and \$1500 is a considerable chunk for us. We just want to be sure we are going to be able to get everything we need/want for this investment. Also, we officially changed our name to Big Sky Horse Park, so we will probably want to change our website domain (bigskyhorsepark.com is available), and redirect all the traffic that is going to missoulaequestrianpark.org.

Do you have any idea when the new website would be ready to launch?
Please let me know where we go from here. Sheila R. Mealey”
We had previously voted to spend up to \$1500 for this improvement and stress
the needs for getting this running smoothly ASAP.

Bill B. mentioned that one jump was damaged and is in need of minor repairs. It was motioned by Rachel that the MHJA be billed \$50. For the damage done to the jump at their event. Joan seconded, all agreed. The course redesign is nearly complete. Val had ridden it today and felt there was one corner turn that was much too tight and a bit dangerous. She will work with Susie, Rachel and Bill to improve that. Otherwise it looks to be ready for action. The new jumps Don John made are very nice and attractive. The new rail trailer was left out after the last Buckle Series, Bill mentioned.

Rachel reported for the English committee and discussed the new layout for the X-country jump course, the improvements to the jumps with the new jumps, repairs, painting and staining and the approved new cups. There are still a few minor adjustments that Susie and she are working out and they will check into Val's concern. The second mini event went very well and seemed to run smoothly. Updates were done on the Web page by Jennifer K for the Buckle series and the mini event.

The next mini event is set for September 19th. The BOD will keep a watch on the smoke activity and move things if needed. Hopefully, the weather is predicted to improve this problem. The one jump that was damaged needs to be repaired in time for this event. It was discussed about the possibility of keeping jumps up in the arena following the event as the jump trailer will be used for the homecoming parade shortly after that. Cindy mentioned that she has 4-H kids needing to use the arena for show prep and would prefer that not happen. The BOD felt the jumps could be unload for the parade and loaded up following that use. Lynn Thee may be able to lend her truck to pull that in the parade Sept. 20. Board help is needed for the Sept.19th event.

Cindy reported on the Buckle Series. She has submitted expenses she had for the buckles, ribbons, and a software management program she used for it. Sheila did a great job as announcer for the second event of the series. She suggested hosting a Pot Luck BBQ following the last show of the series and hand out awards at that time on September 12th. Cindy is still working to confirm the Judge for that event date. Past judge Laurie Watkins is moving to Billings and will be missed as she did a wonderful job for us. She needs an announcer as well. Cindy used the software program to save on expenses, but a full program should be decided upon for the coming year of 2016.

Kim answered questions and concerns about the Western Arena and costs of repairs on it. She has done a lot of investigative work and tried to find out all she could, including the history and concerns of membership about the footing being bad and the whys of that. Joan said that she felt there was a lot of misconception by folks and much hear-say as to what was exactly wrong with the footing. Many folks are stating things that are unproven or simply untrue. What

others frequently have heard is: the clay base is bad, sand is not level, sand mix is not correct, the sand is unstable and unsafe for barrel racing, the base is incorrect, etc. It was felt that a note to the membership stating the facts that Kim has worked on would be helpful. Rachel thought something could be put into the next membership newsletter about it. As it stands now it would cost well over \$23,000.00 to fully repair that footing in order to have the approval of the NBHA for sanctioned barrel racing events. This is a huge expense and cannot be easily justified currently. We can run other events there and should consider doing what we can and try to raise the money for repair that way. Team penning and sorting was discussed. The need for panels for that and the awareness that the stock can't remain at the arena overnight was brought up. Lynn and Sheila suggested a clear full cost estimate and business plan be developed. Exact costs need to be fully determined. It is obvious this will not be possible in this year. COT has offered to do some help with the ground work possibly. Rod Frost and Lynn have discussed this. Questions that need clear answers are:

- Can it be used safely as it is?
- What is needed to make it be able to hold sanctioned MBRA events?
- Can we make do with some repairs and remixing or leveling of the current sand that is there?
- Taking sand out and starting over?
- Does clay base need any work or repairs?
- How can cost be recouped?
- Costs of all these options?

The BOD would like the facts to get out to our membership and show the work done on trying to fix the arena. The BOD does recognize the huge effort of work Kim has put into the project.

Executive Committee: no word on lease agreement. It is in the county's hands, we have given what is needed to them. NW Energy and Lynn have met and there will be pole fences that are accessible built around the exposed power boxes that were installed. Reseeding and repair will be done on the trails were it was disturbed/destroyed by NW energy accessing the area. They could not put power in to the Western arena but Lynn can get that accomplished for around \$300.00 by an electrician at Washington Corp. Lynn also met with Rodney Frost about trail work and will need to have the trail staked out for them. Cost is around \$1500 total, \$500 to be paid by each of the triad of the Park. He felt a 6" base was needed instead of just a 4" base. Staking this out should be done following the next mini event on the 19th of September. Telephone poles are still supposed to come from NW energy for park use.

Facilities and Grounds: Much good comment has come in regarding the park itself and the improvements done. A good suggestion was to place volunteer forms along the trail that dog walkers could see and possibly volunteer to help on our work day October 3. We should ask for this help as Bill stated dog walkers have asked what they could do since they use the facility a lot. BCH needs to be contacted to see if they will do work on their obstacles out at the park on the work day. Bill sent out a list of items for work on the work day:

- * Weed eat Perimeter Fence
 - * Remove debris from irrigation ditch bank and put on burn pile
 - * Check perimeter fence for broken posts (west side) and tension
 - * Replace broken posts
 - * WEA rock removal
 - * Repair and paint park benches
 - * Repairs to announcers stand (windows, lights, etc)
 - * Trim trees back from MEA west side and main entrance road
 - * Remove Russian olive bushes
 - * Repair and stain dressage buildings
 - * Stain picnic tables
 - * Repairs to Back Country Horsemen trail course
 - * Make and install storage racks for new MHJA jump facades
- Bill and Sheila will develop a task force for Oct. 3rd.

Aneill reported that the stalls are doing much better. The mold has been mostly eliminated. Locks were purchased. There still tend to be the occasional break in. One does have a broken latch that needs repair. Cindy felt the Horse Show event did fairly well at clearing the stalls that they used as did Aneill. Aneill also handed out some thank you cards and folks should fill them out and get them sent. We will do an e-mail chain of where BOD people have sent these, so we can keep track that folks get their "Thank You's". Aneill is getting more of these and everyone on the BOD should help out. We need to thank folks that have worked on park improvements, jump staining and painting.

The Ride the Big Sky license plate is available and out there now. Sheila did a great deal of work on this and is promoting it with all sorts of swag items. We want to put it on the parade float with the use of the banner on the jump flatbed trailer, Ginny will bring her mini-donkey and cart and 6-8 riders are willing to ride and carry flags. Many past contributors and friends of the park have been asked to be honored as Champions of the Park and ride on the float (Marge and Dan Harper, Rita Baumgardner, Smoke Elser, and others were approached recently by Susie, Rachel and Lynn about this and felt honored. We will meet to decorate and discuss details of the float after the mini event on the 19th. We will try to do the Sunday the 30th at noon at the park. We are hoping to expose the horse to the flags (Bill offered some flag boot for holding flags that go on stirrups, Aneill may be able to also get some.) and the donkey and cart at that time at the park as well. BOD are asked to wear their license plate shirts and ride on the float, too. We need to get someone to be the pooper scooper, too. We will have a Montana Flag, a UM Griz flag and an American Flag. Only bomb proof horses need apply and children will not be allowed to ride in the parade with us.

Cindy attended the BSSC meeting and Ginny presented her weed management study, which was greatly appreciated and well received. Cindy was asked to continue her representation with BSSC as she has a known good relationship with them and knows the MEP/MHC history of things. She is willing to do this. It gets confusing if others try to present without understanding the way their group tends to run their meetings and address concerns.

The ADA pad will be worked on in October.

We had to meet to straighten out confusion about the abrupt change of the jump course and their (BSSC) not being notified. This was acceptable to them, but we need to avoid these types of errors in the future for the good of this relationship. They were receptive to the proposal now.

There was some damage to the North end Baseball fields with the recent windstorm. Bill said we did not have any damages.

We should include out meeting minutes being sent to them and the Parks Dept. monthly.

Cindy caught us up on costs of work hours Bill did for the park for Cindy's western AHJA show –which said they will return next year. She will bill this to them and reimburse the park the money. Other possible things are the Fall festival Oct. 3? The Amazing race Oct. 3? Faith Therapeutic asked for a trade fair type fund raiser on the work day, but Cindy will see if they can do a different date. They could volunteer on the workday as payment for the arena for their trade fair. The UM Equestrian club is looking for a date to do a Regional show. They would need arenas and stalls. We need to charge for any stall usage, but could negotiate arena fees for some park volunteerism and help. Cindy will try to work on the details of this and their needs. Jump rental would need to be paid as well. Cindy will e-mail the BOD if this needs to happen prior to the next meeting in October.

Other events: Cross Country run Sept. 2 4-7 pm, Open Buckle Series show Sept 12 all day, Mini Event Sept 19 all day, Amazing Race Oct. 3?

UM Equestrian team?

Parade September 26th/Practice September 20 noon

Oct. 17 Fun Omoksee: Penny

There has been some on line and meeting discussion about changing the park name. BOD members went to some of the founding fathers and mothers to get their opinion and all liked the idea. We voted tonight to change the name to Big Sky Horse Park. It is easier to list and advertise, it puts the license plate in a better advertising spot at the DOT, the website is regrouping right now...and it seems friendlier. The signage out front will need to wait due to costs. Sheila moved and Joan seconded this change, all were in favor. Sheila had checked that the name is not currently in use.

The BOD discussed changing the BOD name to Big Sky Horse Council, bit this was tabled until January 2016.

We need to get word out the election for BOD members is soon. A membership letter will be sent out this coming week about this. Nominations will need to start next month. BOD should bring names of any possible interested parties. Voting happens in November so it needs to go out to voting members Nov. 5 and be back by Nov. 15th. We need short BIO's from applicants. New appointment will be for the next 2 years. 2016-2018.

Meeting adjourned. Joan Scheffer 9/7/2015: Sent to Lynn Thee 9/7/2015

