

## **Missoula Horse Council Board Meeting**

8/13/24

In attendance: Deborah Anderson, Bill Bucher, Karla Nichwader, Jennifer Cote(Treasurer), Irene Given, Arwyn Anthony, Drue Kerns, Scott David (President), Natalie Sullivan, Clara Davison (Secretary), Jan Harris, Radley Watkins (Guest from Conservation District)

### **Start at 6:30**

***Karla makes a motion to approve minutes from June, Bill 2nd all in favor. Motion carries.***

### **Conservation District:**

The small acreage event held last year was such a success that the conservation district would like to do it again this year. They would like to bring in more organizations so Radley has also contacted the backcountry horseman's council. He would also like to offer the horse park a "Memorandum of Understanding" that would allow us to use some resources available at the fairgrounds. There are many grants available to us for projects such as fencing and manure management. There would be no financial obligation in creating this relationship. Karla is concerned that by being partners, members and board members could potentially get reprimanded for violating land management practices. Radley wants to express that while there are rules and laws to maintain our lands, the conservation board does not have any interest in seeking out violators and if someone is reported, the conservation district would only want to help the land owner follow the laws.

### **Finances:**

Our finances haven't changed too much since last month. It is Irene's opinion that we were a bit optimistic about our projected membership and revenue. It is possible that we got extra memberships from the CNC show last season. It is also possible that without our early bird special and price changes may cause a drop in memberships. Irene would like to look at past data and see who is renewing memberships vs not to be able to follow up with potential renewals. At this point, the park is about \$200 ahead in operating cost vs expenses.

The cross country logs cost \$650 more than was in our jump budget. With the great deal for these logs, Deb Anderson paid the additional cost. If there is enough money to be reimbursed, she would like to be but is also willing to donate what she has already paid if the park does not have money in the budget. Deb also inquired at Home Depot about discounts for supplies and they do offer discounts for non-profit projects. In the future if we know we will need to make purchases from Home Depot, we should apply for this grant/discount.

Jennifer would like to send out proposals for accounting services from accounting companies for contract proposals to receive help with accounting as the year comes to an end. The board has one week to look into the proposal and then the proposal will be sent out.

## **Events:**

**4H:** Every kid that came to the 4H show at the horse park is sending a letter to the county to ask them to keep the show at the horse park instead of the fairgrounds. It was a great success and everyone appreciated the better grounds and facilities.

There have been multiple shows that we have had to postpone due to heat and smoke, so Arwyn is going to put together an updated calendar. We are also starting the pencil in dates for next year, so event organizers can start sending their dates to Arwyn.

## **Committee Updates:**

**PR/Marketing-** We would like to do an end of the year membership gathering as well as a spring gala around the Kentucky derby in order to get everyone excited for the coming season.

**Membership-** Natalie would like to add onto our volunteer day to have people go door to door and talk about the horse park to the surrounding community.

**Facilities/maintenance** - The new tractor is helping to speed things up a lot and has made everything much easier. We also have an agreement with someone to come take the dirty bedding away once the bunks are full.

## **New Business:**

**Weed control presentation-** Natalie will be having a weed control zoom meeting on march 12th 2025 and she would like the proceeds to go to the park. She will be going through her business in order to have ease of budgeting.

***Clara makes a motion to approve. Deb 2nd, all in favor. Motion carries.***

**Board member policies and expectations-** Reminder that if you are going to be on the board, you are obligated to participate and come to meetings regularly. There are also elections coming up soon. It would be good to have Callie start posting to get potential new board members.

***Natalie makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jan 2nd, all in favor, motion carries meeting is adjourned at 8:34***