



MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

**MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING
July 14th, 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, Aneill Fidler, Kim Stickler, Rachel Ambrose, Ginny Fay, Jen Kendall, Valerie Knudsen.

Excused, Cindy Arnott, ,

Unexcused: None

Guests: Bill Bucher, Penny Bucher, Susie Mayer, Drue Kerns, Joanna Knudsen

An open invitation was sent out to the general membership regarding a BBQ (6:00pm) at the park followed by a board meeting (7:00pm). This Annual Membership meeting is required by our Policies and Procedures Manual.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Kim moved and Ginny seconded the minutes. Approved.

Joanna K. gave us a treasurers' report. Overall we have done well, but the jump costs were extracted this month so the profit margin is minimal. Membership forms continue to come in and have been above previous year's amounts. The profit from the recent Mini-event was \$3463.00, from the schooling day \$796.00, from the Buckle Series-which still has some information that needs to come in, expenses were all paid and the next two shows should show a profit. Johanna had copies of her report, which can be referred to for all expenses for the month. She felt we were making progress and doing well, but needed to have more plans to offer more events. The Barrel Race series had to be cancelled due to the arena ground issues Kim has been working to correct. Joanna said that was a prime example of a low cost event that would bring in good profit for the Park. The new jumps were the biggest expense (\$6300.00) but those will serve us for many years and we needed the upgrades. There were maintenance and upkeep expenses as well as landscaping costs (\$877.33) with the recent workdays. She thought putting our focus for the next few months on the new arena footing upgrade is a beneficial project we should pursue so the arena could be utilized and bring in some income on a more regular basis. The board agreed on this. (Sheila moved/ Kim seconded). There is \$22,000.00 in the bank but we need to be cautious about expenditures and have good goals in mind for use of any

funds. All the board commented on the good work and planning Joanna is doing and applauded her efforts and concerns.

There was some discussion about a letter about taxes that had not been paid, but along with that an explanation the extensions could be put into place. Karen Neel had previously done the taxes and there seems to be some information missing on what is needed currently. The finance committee needs to get with Joanna and address these things and possibly contact Karen Neel about it. A REAL budget outline needs to be completed soon.

Joanna gave Mini event entries over to Rachel to process and store. She was pleased that there were many out of state entries at the event. Susie Mayer will be taking over the mini event with the English Committee. They were all going over the course plan during part of the BOD meeting, so it could be presented to BSSC. (Rachel, Susie, and Drue)

Lynn had no new news on the lease agreement but the delay is in the hands of Lisa Moisey and she has told Lynn the issue is with their ability to review it- so the MHC has completed their part on it. Insurances are up to date and fine.

Northwest Energy has started their new line project and are currently working during the weekdays at the MEP. They make sure that the trenches are back filled or areas are restricted or marked each day. It runs east to west behind the main event arena. \$10,000.00 was paid by NW to the county - \$2000.00 of that went to county activities and BSSC and the county has agreed for the remaining \$8,000.00 to all go to BSSC for MEP use. There are 2-3 boxed relay stations that will be fenced with wooden pole fencing once the project completes. One of the boxes is by the toilet and two others will be on the east and west borders. NWE donated 20+ telephone poles to the MEP for use as materials for jumps. We will need to add the power station for the western arena as NEW could not do this along with their current project. Joan moved and Val seconded that we designated at most \$500.00 to go to this project. That was approved.

The ADA pad and plan was approved and work will be done on it in the Fall hopefully.

A letter from Laura Bakker was passed around and she was pointing out the great job the MEP did with the dust control and management of the Buckle Series event. It was quite a nice complement.

There was a jump course change, which should have been discussed before it happened that Lynn and others managed. It was an honest mistake and quickly acted upon. Our thanks to Lynn and the others for fixing the error and making amends.

Sheila showed copies of the new and final license plate which is now available July 31st. Sheila and Ginny are going to give it a big introduction at the Rebecca Farms event and will get T shirts with it on to give to any BOD member attending the event to wear and advertise the plate. Several members plan to attend and

Val is competing. They are making flyers and handouts as well. Karl Tyler has agreed to hand out a key chain with the plate to all new truck purchasers for us. This has been a huge project and Sheila, Val, Ginny and others need to be thanked for all the efforts. This could be a very big money maker for the park. Sheila has talked with the Horse Sanctuary and they make nearly \$30,000.00 from theirs. Hopefully ours will do as well. The "Ride the Big Sky" theme and the colors of it are very good. We have a prototype one that has the license lettering of "I (heart) HORSE." You can get a permanent one for trailers for a one-time fee. Many board members are hanging on to renewals until it is available the end of the month. Hopefully the law will not catch up to all of them or will be understanding! There was discussion about really trying to brand this as the MEP logo and use it on the web page, Facebook and other marketing venues. Sheila has worked on getting the keychains, shirts, cups, hats, etc could be done. Perhaps getting the keychains out to trailer sales folks could be used. Jennifer mentioned the need for us to have this used so people know who we are and what this symbol stands for. All agreed.

Jennifer brought up that she was frustrated that communication has not been directed to her about marketing and PR issues. She is the only one on that specific committee currently. Lynn thought that it was an oversight because the committees were working with specific deadlines and details that had to be met fast. People on committees such as this need to act quickly when needed and sometimes waiting for someone else to reply or add their thoughts is time consuming since the details need to be understood and reviewed. Part of the reason we have the committees in place is so that people can present and act without the whole board having to weigh in on every detail of the decisions. Jennifer said that we need to communicate better and we all agree that was something everyone could do better with. Lynn brought up that lack of prior history knowledge is another issue that comes up at times. Jennifer had sent out many documents to the BOD before tonight's meeting. The use of flag markers to put out when anyone finds an area Bill needs to work on was done. We have some that could be placed out on course for folks to use and then Bill will check every week or two on them and fix them. Aneill thought that the new train jump obstacle was a good location and Val agree, so some will be put out there and the membership notified on how to use them. If there is a significant danger then Bill or a BOD member should be contacted about it and it should be fixed ASAP. This is what happened when Jennifer and her horse had a nasty fall at a jump a few weeks ago. Jennifer wished to order some flags of a specific size and make, but it was felt we should try to use what we had and get others if this did not work. Bill and Aneill told us that they were around in the storage area for use. Annette, a new park member stopped by with questions about the Western Events arena. Kim explained the footing problems to her, but stressed that she could certainly use the arena, just to be aware of the differences in footing depth and to try to set the barrel pattern in a different arena than that which is staked and marked currently. Kim talked about that arena being re-worked and improved in the fall. Annette offered to leave some nice pole racing poles at the arena for the park to use and also has a set of blue plastic barrel we could have. These were two things we needed to get for Penny's event coming up. Penny

also then talked with Kim about the other equipment needed for that event and Kim, Joan, Lynn and Lynn L. met to discuss this after the BOD adjourned. The Western events committee should come up with a budget plan for the entire cost of the arena upgrade. They will work on this and compile all the information Kim has been getting. Having the NBHA approval so we can have their western events and be safe is critical in all this, so it needs to be done and done correctly. We may be able to raise some funding through practice days and clinics to help with the cost which will be over \$20,000. The \$8,000 from NWE will be a start, but much more must be attained. Joan suggested a "Bail us out Barrel Race" series once the arena footing is good. Riders could donate to compete and practice and we could designate it to be for the arena upgrade, Lynn mentioned.

Sheila told us the "Amazing Race event will be in early October instead of August. The Obstacle course is extremely costly and although a great idea, should be tabled until 2016 due to cost and the more pressing need of getting the Western Event arena solid and good. We will put that on hold until next year.

Cindy sent out a note that she needs volunteers for her event July 26th. Everyone is encouraged to help as much as possible with this and in the remaining Buckle Series as well as Penny's Omoksee event, which all benefit the park itself. Cindy also needs the Liverpool from Drue for the trail class to use.

The English committee will present the new jump course to the BSSC.

Aniell discussed the stalls and said the last event was much better as far as cleaning. However there has been stall use that people just take and do not pay for and then leave stalls a mess. There has again been some vandalism and use of stalls for beer parties and such. Bill tries to keep up on these things but you never know when it will occur. Aniell needs to get some more combination locks for the stalls as several are missing or have been lost. The BOD discussed and voted (Jennifer moved and Kim seconded) to give her up to \$100 for lock purchase and purchase lime juice and salt - which Aniell researched as the best method to clean the stalls of mold. There are several with mold issues, mostly due to snow accumulation in winter. Aniell will get this and present a receipt to Johanna for reimbursement. Aniell will get the stalls ready for the next events. (Buckle Series and MHJA shows). She will need to purchase more shavings at those times. The new jump cups are in and can be used. There will be some temporary stalls brought in and used for the MHJA events.

Aniell also should us the "Thank you" cards she had made up. She will get more and all Of the BOD's can help to write some thank you's that are long overdue, and get them out to folks. There is a list being completed and some will be sent with the cards to each BOD member to write. She has a card type and a postcard type. The BOD voted to have her get these printed up and for everyone to help to work on getting them written and sent.

Joan moved and Val seconded the meeting be adjourned. All agreed.

7/16/2015 JS