



BIG SKY HORSE PARK

MISSOULA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

January 5th, 2016

7:00pm – Perkins Restaurant

Present: Lynn Thee, Sheila Mealey, Joan Scheffer, Kim Stickler, Ginny Fay
Rachel Ambrose, Aneill Fisler, Arwyn Anthony, Sheila Miller

Absent: Lynn Lee, Cindy Arnott

Non-BOD Present: Bill Bucher

1. The Executive Committee met from 1800-1900 prior to the full board meeting. Items discussed were the upcoming retreat Jan 30th, a need to calendar a finance committee meeting prior to the Jan. 30 retreat, ideas and suggestions for a change of our meeting night to better allow for attendance for some, Facebook pages upgrades and changes, and getting correct e-mail and contact information from everyone compiled.
2. Lynn opened our meeting with introductions of the two new board members Sheila Miller & Arwyn Anthony. They both will provide the board with great interest, enthusiasm and knowledge. Arwyn has returned to Missoula after completing her business degree in Dillon and had done a lot with the park when she was in Missoula before her schooling took her to Dillon. She helped put on some of the shows at the park and is an avid horse-woman. Sheila comes to us from Alaska and began her journey into the horse world later in life. She was a tremendous help at all our volunteer duties the past year and her husband built our wonderful and functional storage building doors. We feel lucky to have them serving on the BOD for the next two years. All of the current members' present introduced themselves to Sheila and Arwyn. We now have two Sheila M's, so we need to come up with a way to keep that straight!

GENERAL BOARD MEETING: OLD BUSINESS

1. The Board received a digital copy of the current events that are scheduled. It looks to be a busy year for our park! Dates are filling fast. Highlights include the Special Olympics Equestrian competition, Mini Events, The Buckle Series, Omoksee events, Barrel racing, and a new Obstacle Trail series competition. A year's end awards BBQ is also planned. A digital copy of the treasurer's report was also sent.
2. Treasurer's report approval tabled until financial committee can meet with Joanna and develop a more comprehensive report. This will be brought up again at the retreat for Board approval.
 - Lynn brought up to all that there are still two slots open on the board and for us all to think about who may fill those spots well and help us to a successful year.
 - Val Knutsen is not serving on the board this year and wants to be sure her name is removed from the board mailing lists.
 - Previous December minutes were sent out to the current BOD. Kim motioned and Aneill seconded their approval. These minutes were approved by all.
 - Joanna had sent a Treasurers report just today and many had not had time to review it. Approval of it was tabled until the Jan. 30th meeting and more input was needed and members needed to review it and discuss changes they wanted to see with the reports. The finance committee will meet and work on this.
 - All agreed that Joanna was doing a good job, but that we need to set more guideline for what was wanted in reports.
 - The need for a financial meeting prior to Jan. 30 brought together Sheila Miller joining that group-her accounting experience will be valuable. Ginny is willing to stay with it and Kim, as treasure will also attend along with Sheila Mealey and Lynn Thee. They wanted to set up a meeting where Joanna could attend and were working to do that.
 - Joan brought up the need for us to work hard to develop budgets for all committees and make that an important part of all the committees. Discussion agreed.
 - Ginny said plans and goals were important and needed.
 - It was stressed that committee meeting could be done by e-mail as getting people together with all the busy lives was sometimes impossible.
 - We all agreed we were in a much brighter place with finances than last year, but that more could be done and we need to keep one another accountable where spending is concerned.

- We will make sure there are decisions at the retreat on who serves on the committees and time for each committee to meet and organize.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Special Olympics Equestrian Event at the Park on May 17-20, 2016
2. Rachel and Ginny report on website up-grades and form digitalization, finding many fee inconsistencies and want to standardize and digitalize these soon
3. Upcoming **Board of Directors retreat** and meeting **January 30, 2016 at Ruby's Inn** begins with **breakfast at 0730** and **meetings beginning at 0800**. Lunch provided on site. All BOD members should make every effort to attend.
4. Discussion on membership fees reopened and needs re-addressed
5. Park gate combo has changed.

1-The Special Olympics wants to host their event at the BSHP and needs a price quote. The dates needed are May 17-20. When adding things up it comes to a total of \$2300 for all their requirements. It was felt the BSHP could have a bit of leniency and negotiate the price some if this was too much for them to pay. We need to encourage this type of Park activity and it brings in new participants.

2-Rachel reported on the new website and the ability to do the memberships on line through PayPal. It is almost completed and should be running by January 30th. There has been lots of work put into the new webpage, new Big Sky Horse Park Facebook page, and upgrading of forms to digital formats. She has concerns about the ability to do event entries as there is so much that would need to be entered the day of the event and little time to allow it to be done on-line. Changes and adding charges at the last minute would be very hard. It seems to run well on the current program, so she proposed we stay with that this first year so bugs are worked about and then readdress the possibility. There was much discussion on this and several events gave input on how other places doing shows ran things and what fees were charged as well as how they are collected. Rachel feels check in the day of an event would only lead to backing up of people and poor management of the event. Forms still need some final review and one of the major thing is the various fees are random in places and do not really add up well. Cindy was unable to attend the meeting tonight and wanted input on this and has valuable experience and expertise in the area. It was felt the fee issues needed to be address first and then we could see about listing fees on the webpage with easy understanding and access. Ginny had sent out a summary of the park fees today, but many had not had time to look it over. Cindy is our event coordinator and should have her input on this. The cost of the big Western arena seems very high at \$200.00-day rental where the other arena is at \$100.00. People wanting to host an event should be able to get everything covered in one total fee, or at least a list of what was covered when that fee is paid without having several add ins that are always required tacked on.

3-Retreat Meeting January 30th at Ruby's Inn on Reserve. All members should be present for this. It will begin at 0730 if you want to have a buffet breakfast. If not the meeting itself will begin at 0800 and should go the entire day until 1700. Lunch will be provided. The agenda is being finalized but will include:

- Report from Waddle and Reed about BSHP finances and plans
- Report from Joanna Knutson BSHP Accountant
- Meeting with Carley who designed the website
- Meeting with Bill from BSSC
- Budgeting and Goals
- Committee sign up and Individual Committee meetings
- Bill Bucher: Park upkeep and maintenance, needs for the year, tasks, equipment
- Plan or action for the year
- Park Insurances, the Tower Street Plan and its importance working with BSSC and Parks Dept. together. New members will receive notebook with park information, contacts and dates.
- Ideas for the future
- Park Promotion Ideas and thoughts, going over current park dates needs, volunteer days and work days, license plate income and importance of promoting it.
- Budget Goals
- Events
- Volunteer Days and tasks
- Sheila is working on the agenda and timing. Some folks (Amandine Remington, Jessie Lyons and others) had requested to be used as helpers and volunteers with specific committees and these people will be contacted and ask to attend when the committee meeting time frames are decided.

4-OTHER:

- Insurances will need to be redone for the coming year.
- Lease for the 60-acre renewal are at the county office and our part is completed
- Lynn explained that there are 5 other lease holders besides BSHP. The BBSC (Big Sky Stewardship Committee) represents them and the Parks Dept. holds another part. The lease for the 30-acre parcel will come up this year.
- All major changes need to go through proper channels, understanding the history of the park and the regulations is important.
- Many would like to address again the membership fees and the board being rewarded by having this paid if they are in good standing after one year of service and want to apply for it. Sheila had developed an application. It was struck down at a meeting that many board members were not able to attend. It will be brought up again at the next meeting. Cindy Arnott needs to be present to talk about her reasoning about this.
- There is a new combination at the gate locks

End of meeting. Aneill moved and Sheila seconded for adjournment. All agreed.

JS 1/6/2016