

# Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

## Board of Directors' Meeting

January 8, 2014

**Attendees:** Mo Wachman, Terry Stecyk, Marjorie Porter, Jenny Powers, Carmela Lizzo, Dan Cohorst

**Committees:** Ray Wallage, Marlene Kinsella, Barbara Elliott

**Absent:** Lori Bridwell, Judy Riley, Claudia Jordan

**Guests:** Randy and Lisa Goettsche, RVHA members

### Minutes

The minutes from the November 2013 meetings were previously distributed via email and no comments or corrections were received. A motion was made to approved the minutes, seconded and the motion passed without opposition. The minutes from the December 2013 "virtual" meeting that was conducted via email to discuss some proposed revisions to the Bylaws, were distributed December 3 via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and approved with no discussion.

### Treasurer's Report

The report was distributed by Mo at the meeting on Judy's behalf. The balances are as follows: Checking account \$3,270.95; Savings account \$593.30; PayPal account \$4,707.90 and petty cash \$346.50 for a total of \$8,918.65. New and renewal membership fees are arriving and there are no outstanding bills at this time.

A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed without discussion.

### Membership Report

Currently there are 418 total members for 2014, which reflects a high number of early renewals. There are 22 new members for 2014 and 372 voting members.

### Social Committee - Carmela

- **Chili Cook-off – February 9 - noon**

There will be a cook-off plus pot luck. Burgers and hot dogs will be grilled onsite. Lori will arrange for judges with an estimate of five judges required. New t-shirts for the participants and judges will be ordered with the updated RVHA logo. Marjorie will post the event on the website and email promotions will be sent.

- **Yard Sale – March 15 or March 22**

Mo and Carmela will check dates, venue and send "save the date" notices to the membership.

- **Spring Dinner Dance – April**

Suggested venues are Cave Creek Outfitters or Big Sky Ranch, although Big Sky has been unresponsive with previous attempts to contact. Carmela will follow-up.

- **Burger Nite – May or June**

Carmela will research. Greasewood Flat is the preferred venue.

- **Suggestions**

- Hiking – February 15 – 10:00am

- A hiking outing from Brown's Ranch Trailhead was suggested. Terry will check with the Conservancy regarding an educational speaker, Randy and Lisa offered to assist in leading the hike.

**Facebook Report - Terry**

226 likes. An increase in traffic was noted due to the lost/found Pekingnese dog.

**Welcome Committee - Claudia**

No report.

**Trail Rides Committee – Terry**

- Ho Ho Ho Ride – December 7

- There were 17 riders and 22 for brunch with 8 rental horses utilized. The ride was nice although it was a bit chilly at the start, brunch was \$10 and RVHA paid the Preserve fee for the rental horses. Carole Burton, Conservancy Patrol Captain spoke at the brunch and more equestrians may have been recruited for the patrol steward program.

***Old Business***

**Bylaws Committee**

The final draft was distributed to the Board of Directors. Ray thanked the committee members for working well together and putting so much time and effort into the revisions.

The process of voting was summarized – a draft and summary of changes will be sent to the membership via email with a request for voting to approve the proposed revisions. A simple majority of the voting membership (not the majority of total responses received) is required based on the structure of the existing Bylaws. This translates to 187 at this time, but will be updated based on membership at the time the email is sent. To vote the members will reply to the email and indicate their names and approval or disapproval of the proposed revisions. A deadline of two weeks for voting will be set with a reminder to be sent midway. Marjorie also thanked the committee members for their dedication to the project.

Ray indicated he is opposed to the deletion of “nominations from the floor” in the election process. A brief discussion was held and mention was made that there is adequate time for any interested member to be nominated prior to the election, which now takes place electronically. Nominations from the floor is an outdated process and those individuals would have no chance at winning an election because of the votes already cast for others. A motion as made to accept the proposed revisions, seconded. Voting resulted in all in favor of acceptance.

Another discussion dealt with the Parliamentarian role. The vice president does not have to be the parliamentarian for the Board and the Bylaws does not outline a requirement so that any qualified Board member may assume that role as needed.

### ***New Business***

#### **Donations from the Fall Dinner Dance**

There was a total of \$1,705 collected from the silent auction and the 50/50 raffle. Fedwell Farm has been deleted from the list of approved charities as it is no longer operating. There are eight approved charities, but the Board decided to focus this donation period on four of the local and less broad charities. The selected organizations are Arizona Equine Rescue, Four Peaks Rescue, Reigning Grace Ranch and Verde Cares. RVHA will support the Foothills Food Bank in conjunction with Roadside Clean-up events. It was suggested that a donation of \$450 be made to each of the four identified local organizations. A motion was made to approve the \$450 donation, seconded and approved without discussion. An additional suggestion was made to allow limited free classifieds for the approved charities to place ads for rescued animals needing foster or permanent homes, etc. Terry will notify the organizations and coordinate the ads.

As a side note, Terry requested permission to change the classified ad schedule to Friday to give her more time to prepare now that she is working several days a week. The Board was in agreement that the schedule can be adjusted to fit Terry's needs.

A suggestion was made to offer members a "work day" opportunity at a local charity. This initiative would raise awareness for our local organizations, provide much-needed support outside of monetary donations, and allow members to experience organizations they may later want to continue assisting. Jenny was asked to contact Reigning Grace Ranch and offer that organization the first opportunity. The work day would be four hours of time and would consist of any project for which the charity needs assistance. Jenny will report to the Board the results of the outreach to RGR.

#### **Vista Verde Task Force**

A task force of several individuals has been formed to keep RVHA apprised of activity with the proposed changes to the Vista Verde plans. The members are: Claudia Jordan, Brian McCarthy, Bill Bailey, Will Leroy, Carmela Lizzo, Michael Noonan and Randy Goettsche. The next County meeting on this situation is January 29. No further information is available at this time. The meeting is important because it is the last opportunity to voice opposition to the increased density of the development. Mo will send a reminder of the meeting and a status update to the membership.

#### **Advertising Committee**

One person has responded to the request for assistance in running this committee. Her name is Geri Dury and she is enthusiastic about the tasks. She will need time to get up to speed with the computer programs, but is willing to work hard and her efforts are appreciated.

### **McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Education**

Terry reported that she was interviewed for equestrian input for educational outreach the Conservancy is developing regarding interaction between hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Terry is identified as an RVHA member and asked if that was a concern to the Board. She is speaking as an equestrian using the trail system and did not indicate that she was a spokesperson for RVHA. The Board has no issue with the identification as an RVHA member related to this interview.

### **RVHA Board Election**

The upcoming Board election will be discussed at the February meeting.

### **For the Good of the Association**

Ray is now on the Board for the McDowell Mountain Park Association and will provide updates to the RVHA Board as necessary.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:22pm.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 5. Social at 6:30pm and meeting begins at 7:00pm. The location will be at Bridwell Equestrian Center/Arizona Cowboy College unless otherwise noted.

The refreshment schedule is as follows:

February - Carmela

March – Marjorie

April – Terry

May – Lori

June – Claudia

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary