

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association
Board of Directors' Meeting
March 6, 2013

Attendees: Mo Wachman, Lori Bridwell, Marjorie Porter, Claudia Jordan, Jenny Powers, Judy Riley, Ray Wallage, Dan Cohorst, Terry Stecyk

Absent: None

Committees: None except Board members

Guests: Amanda & Christopher Moore -- Reigning Grace Ranch founders
Annie Hodgkins

Reigning Grace Ranch

Amanda and Christopher showed a video and provided an overview of their charitable organization, Reigning Grace Ranch. The Ranch has multiple purposes:

- Provides a donation and rescue service for unwanted horses. Some horses remain in the program while others receive rehabilitation and training and are re-homed as appropriate. Because the program is intense for the horses, it is important to have enough horses to allow sufficient breaks from service. There are currently 30 horses in the program.
- Provides a place where "at risk" children from a variety of situations can learn to relate to horses, do crafts, receive support and guidance and learn of opportunities outside their scope of experience. The program provides a relationship with horses to children who would never otherwise have the privilege. The children relate to the abuse, neglect and recovery of the horses and realize there is hope.
- Provides exposure to inner city children to the environment, awareness of animals and the feeling the animals have, open space, the desert and absence of electronic devices. The program also offers respite for single parents because the children are kept occupied with crafts and horses. Journaling is encouraged and allows children to express their thoughts and improve written skills and communication.

A motion was made to add Reigning Grace to the organizations supported by RVHA and the motion was seconded and passed without opposition. Additionally a motion was made to make an initial donation of \$500 to the organization and then additional future donations when the list of charities and donation schedule is discussed at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. Judy will ensure the donation is made.

Annie Hodgkins

Annie talked about creating one or more committees within RVHA to monitor legislation and other issues that could affect the community, providing summaries in a neutral format and keeping the membership informed. Annie referenced the Town Hall concept and holding meetings but did not have details on how the logistics would work or assurance that the concept would be well received by the

membership. Experience shows that attendance at meetings is generally low. Currently there are no issues facing the community that would require this effort but it could apply in the future. Annie did not have details on structure and did not immediately appear willing to chair such a committee. The Board requested a written proposal for consideration so that the concept is fully understood. Annie will provide the proposal to Mo at her earliest convenience. The Board will review and determine next steps.

Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the February 6 meeting as submitted. Motion was seconded and passed without comment.

Treasurers Report

Judy emailed a copy of the report to the Board members. All bills are paid. The Board discussed that the anniversary celebration could be subsidized to provide low or no cost to members. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and passed without comment. Judy requested that Board members bring ideas to the next meeting for the development of a charitable giving schedule.

Checking	\$4,291.66
Savings	353.98
PayPal	6,245.69
Petty Cash	<u>583.50</u>
Total	\$11,474.83

Membership Report

513 total members; 469 renewed from last year.

Social Committee

Yard Sale – March 23 – reservations are slow coming in. Reminders have been sent this week.

Bumblebee Ride – ACTHA will not be in Bumblebee on the April dates planned so Carmela cancelled. Marjorie will remove the event from the website and Mo will send a notice. Unfortunately Carmela did not attend the meeting so little information was available on this or other plans. Alternative locations are being considered.

Old Business

Facebook – Terry reporting

129 likes. Some people have posted photos and a lost dog notices. Mo can post to Facebook if Terry is not available to post lost dogs.

Welcome Committee – Claudia reporting

Claudia hasn't been able to do much due to her workload. Claudia has a booth at Festival of the West and will provide packets of RVHA information to truly interested people. The Board discussed having business cards with the logo and URL to distribute. Mo will research production of cards for Claudia's use.

New Business

15th Anniversary – Mo is still collecting ideas. Celebration should be in September.

Logo Update – Mo asked for copy ideas for communicating the logo message. Prize money will be offered and the winner will receive \$250. The notice of the contest should be posted by April 1 and final by May 31 to allow the Board to vote on the winning design at the June meeting. The logo can then be put into production for items for the September celebration. The goal is to simplify the logo for embroidery and other applications.

Election Ballot/Voting Method

www.electionbuddy.com

Board members were asked to review the method and Mo will test. It is simple to use and will be easier to count.

Election Process

The Bylaws Committee developed a method for the four Board members who will be up for election this year. The two longest lasting members and two newest members will stay and Claudia will serve her two year term. Judy, Dan, Terry and Jenny will run next year. Mo, Ray, Lori and Marjorie will run this year. Candidacy forms need to be completed if running for re-election if not already done.

Election Committees

The Bylaws Committee was asked to keep a file for suggested changes to accommodate a future update to use an electronic method of voting. Marjorie suggested clarification is needed in two sections and a resolution will resolve the situation and will be posted with the meeting minutes on website for public access. An amendment is not required.

Board resolution – a motion was made to clarify the election process as stated in the Bylaws to accommodate an electronic voting process. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

Moto-cross Track Issue

There is no new news but over 100 people attended the meeting at the Elliott's home last week and a hearing will be held on March 21. An email was sent to receive updates from the County on this project. There is clarification needed on County staff comments that will be addressed. Ag permit status is not clearly defined or understood in this instance but reportedly expires this summer. It could be renewed. Information will be shared as it becomes available. Those who attended the meeting reported that County representatives were surprised and impressed with the turnout. The staff will speak with the property owners to obtain their input as well.

Snake Avoidance Training

Terry contacted the instructors from last year's program to assess interest in providing training again this year. Lori offered her facility if needed.

Ray will write an article on how to differentiate rattlesnakes from harmless and helpful snakes to avoid destruction of beneficial snakes.

Salt River Horses

Terry contacted the organization that tracks and photographs the wild horses on the Salt River. They are interested in developing a similar program for the Verde River horses. Terry will provide an article in the next issue of the RVHA newsletter with more information.

Motion to adjourn: 9:05pm.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 3 at Arizona Cowboy College. 6:30pm refreshments (Dan) and social; 7:00pm meeting begins.