

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 6, 2013

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

Committees: None other than Board members

Absent: None

Minutes

The minutes from the October meeting were distributed in advance by email. A correction has been made to delete two mentions of volunteer assistance by Claudia that she did not offer due to out of town commitments. A motion was made to accept the minutes with correction from the October meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were accepted. An updated copy will remain on file and will be posted on the website, but not re-distributed.

Treasurer's Report

The report was distributed by Judy at the meeting. Judy expressed concerns regarding cash flow and the ability to meet the Dinner Dance expenses. A discussion followed allowing that only the band had to be paid by the time of the event. Carmela has paid other expenses and can be reimbursed within 30 days. Sufficient funds will be available to cover necessary costs until the Pay Pal funds are transferred to the checking account next week. However, it was noted that the attendance for the Dinner Dance is lower than anticipated and the event may not break-even on expenses. At the time of the meeting there were about 60 attendees registered, an increase to 80 would just cover expenses. For planning purposes the attendance had been estimated at 125. It was thought that attendance may be low due to the venue (fire station).

Judy suggested obtaining an RVHA credit card for this type of situation where expenses are incurred and planned income is delayed, especially in the late fall and early winter when membership renewals are not yet coming in. The Board authorized Judy to pursue obtaining a credit card.

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

Membership Report

Currently there are 626 total members, an increase of 18 members in September and a total of 125 new members year-to-date.

Social Committee

- **RVHA Anniversary – October 19**

There were 110 attendees and the entertainment was well-received. Especially popular was the "quick-draw" competition and the singing cowboy. The photo boards were very much appreciated and enjoyed by the attendees. It was decided that for future events all of the food

will be served by Board members or other volunteers. Those helping themselves took large portions leaving nothing for late arrivals. Better portion control is necessary.

- **Fall Dinner Dance – November 9**

The fire station property has been significantly improved with regard to parking and lighting. A porta-potty will be delivered on Friday morning. Terry will have a table set-up for raffle items and a flat-bed trailer has been obtained for the band stage. A discussion of signage followed and Carmela and Mo will review what signs are available that could be utilized for the event.

Carmela will supply a coffee pot and will bring additional table cloths. Carmela will also supply votives for the tables. Judy offered to pick up chips and salsa and nuts for pre-dinner snacks at cocktail hour. Mo will bring soda and water.

- **Holiday Bazaar – December 1**

Promotion of this event needs to begin. The time was decided as noon to 4:00pm. Carmela will work the Rio Verde communities to promote the event. After much discussion it was decided that RVHA will not provide food. Lori will confirm that the hot dog vendor will be there and Lori's riding club girls will have a booth to sell bags of chips and drinks to benefit their horse show activities. Lori will make arrangements with Stacey for the hot dog cart and her students.

Facebook Report - Terry

217 likes. The Halloween Horror movie for horses was very popular with over 1,200 hits. The site is active and doing well.

Welcome Committee - Claudia

Claudia is pleased that the membership is being tracked to evaluate the effect of this committee. Marjorie reported one new member since the last meeting from the list of prospects Claudia provided. Claudia asked for 30 extra newsletters to be printed for the next issue to replenish her supply. The member referral program for new member recruitment has been discontinued.

Trail Ride – October 26

Terry reported that there were cancellations and the ride ended up with a group of five. The group experienced some issues with equipment and the trail was rocky in places. The weather was good and the scenery was pretty and the riders enjoyed themselves. A trail rating system will be developed to match expectations to the trail experience on future rides.

Old Business

Bylaws Committee

Marjorie sent Bylaws after the last revisions made at the October meeting and received no comments. After considerable discussion of the pros and cons to including a requirement to establish a budget as part of the Bylaws, it was decided that the current process of presenting a monthly report, comparison to the previous year and discussion at each meeting is sufficient for the needs of the organization. Because new events are added and others deleted to meet the needs of the membership during the

year and the income fluctuates with renewals and new memberships and is not predictable, it was determined that the current system works well and no change is needed.

The Board approved presenting the Bylaws to the membership for approval early in the year, January is targeted. A simple majority of the membership is required based upon current Bylaws regarding voting. A change to the voting process is included in the changes being presented for approval by the members.

Insurance Update

Although coverage will remain exactly the same, the agent will shop around the requirements to different insurance companies in an effort to obtain the best rates. The agent is also researching liability insurance for events to be added as a rider. It is unclear whether there will be a cost associated with the rider or not.

After much discussion it was decided that the approved liability release form be signed by everyone participating in an RVHA sponsored trail ride at every ride. This eliminates keeping the waivers on file and maintaining a list to be checked at every event. The release can be printed once with lines underneath for the signatures of every participant rather than individual forms for each rider. Carmela will provide verbiage to be included in the RVHA membership application for mandatory acceptance of the terms and conditions of release from liability. The verbiage will be incorporated on both the downloadable and online versions of the applications.

New Business

Trail Ride Committee - Terry

The Board approved a newly formed Trail Ride Committee and Terry Stecyk was nominated and approved as chair. The members include Claudia Jordan, Jenny Powers, Cecile Honnas, Lee Prosser and Dan Cohorst. The committee will develop a rating guide to allow participants to assess the offered rides and ensure that both horses and riders are adequately prepared for the terrain and conditions of the rides. Jenny provided information to Terry as a basis for this rating system and the committee will refine to suit RVHA's needs.

- **Trail Ride – December 7** – the ride will depart from Cave Creek Outfitters where rental horses are available. A brunch is included with this ride. Terry is making arrangements with Cheryl and more information will be available soon.
- **New Year's Day** - Claudia will lead a ride around the Granite Loop Trail in the MSC Preserve. Riders will bring lunch to eat on the trail. Claudia will scout for an appropriate location.
- **Preserve Rides** - informal, unsponsored rides will be offered to anyone wishing to join on Thursdays in the Preserve. Rides will begin at the Lone Mountain Trailhead in the Granite Mountain area.

- **Brown's Ranch Trailhead Open House – October 19**

Jenny reported that event was well organized and well attended with about 400 participants and 12 exhibit booths. It was an appropriate venue for RVHA with good traffic at the booth throughout the event. Claudia and Theresa Thraen assisted in providing RVHA information and give-away items. A full report will be featured in the next issue of *Round-up*.

- **Preserve Steward**

Jenny briefly explained the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Steward Program and referenced the website for details. Stewards participate in many programs but the focus for recruiting within RVHA is the patrol program. Patrol stewards act as ambassadors in the Preserve and may patrol on horseback, mountain bikes or hiking. Claudia and Terry both completed the mandatory steward training program and are working toward completing the internship phase by riding and recording their hours spent on Preserve trails. Jenny submitted a more detailed article for the next issue of *Round-up*.

Social Committee – Carmela

- **Spring Dinner Dance** – Carmela researched the Tonto Verde Golf Club as a possible venue for the dinner dance. It is pricey and may not be viable. Carmela suggested waiting until the Fall Dinner Dance was over and also suggested considering heavy appetizers in place of a dinner.
- **Chili Cook-off** – The event will be in January at Lorill Equestrian Center/Arizona Cowboy College. Lori will select a date that works with the facility schedule and the Board will discuss at the next meeting (December holiday party).

For the Good of the Association

Lori related that she encountered one of the owners of Greasewood Flat, Hoyt Johnson at a Cowboy College event recently. Hoyt was married to one of Doc's daughters who is deceased. Hoyt asked for support of the RVHA membership in the on-going sale of the land to offset the tax liability incurred by the owners. Lori will provide information as appropriate for Mo to send to the membership.

Dan presented a suggestion for Halloween 2014. It is suggested that RVHA sponsor a community event that would allow local children to dress up and "trick or treat" at a venue that is safe and provides a social outing for the families. Many area children are transported to other communities where sidewalks, street lights and homes close together provide a better environment for Halloween activity. The RVHA party would be an alternative and could take the place of an existing event or be a new addition. It is always fun to see children dressed up and excited about collecting treats. The Board approved of the concept and is interested in exploring this idea next year.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:15pm.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is the December Board and Committee Christmas party. December 8 and 15 were suggested. Venue and date were not finalized at this meeting.

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary