

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 2, 2016

Attendees: Mo Wachman, Marjorie Porter, Terry Stecyk, Claudia Jordan, Lori Bridwell, Jean Anderson

Absent: Jenny Powers, Judy Riley, Carmela Lizzo

Guests: None

Reports

Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were distributed by Jenny via email. Jean requested that information not previously presented to the board regarding the Rio Verde area controlled burn be included in the February minutes. Without a decision on that request a motion was made to accept the minutes as presented, seconded and passed.

In Jenny's absence Marjorie took the minutes for the March meeting. After Marjorie and Jenny consulted it was determined that Jean's information and documentation regarding the controlled burn should be presented at the upcoming April board meeting rather than inserting it into the February minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Judy previously distributed the report by email. There was no discussion on the information provided. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded, approved with no comments.

Membership Report - Mo

As of March 2 there are 492 total members, with 19 new members for 2016. There are 29 Lifetime members.

Facebook Report - Terry

Terry reported that there are now 629 "likes" up from 620 at last report. Terry will investigate if the privacy of our Facebook page can be changed where guests can post information directly to the Timeline, with admin approval. Currently guests can post on our page, but it goes to a side area where there is less visibility. The goal of posting lost or found pets could possibly be more quickly received by guests viewing the page if on Timeline. Currently Mo or Terry reposts and Terry continues to share posts with other area Facebook pages if information is relevant.

Promotional Items – Jean

One decal has been sold since the last report.

Old Business

McDowell Sonoran Preserve Trailhead improvements - Terry

Terry spoke with Liz Hildebrand at the City of Scottsdale. A lot of positive input, as well as a little negative, was gathered at the various open houses. Any improvements would be at least a year out. Designs would need to be studied as well as current budget would have to be reviewed. Possibly water would be available at Fraesfield trailhead. Toilets are being considered at both Fraesfield and Granite Mountain trailheads. The need for more parking at Granite Mountain trailhead for weekend traffic is also being considered. No trailhead closer to the newer northern trails is being considered at this time. Those areas are considered to be more remote and access limited due to distance from trailheads.

McDowell Sonoran Preserve damage - Terry

Terry reported any user can damage the trails following a heavy rain, especially the newer, softer trails. City of Scottsdale does put out signs asking users to refrain from using the trails. Horses leave divots but they usually fill in and are broken down with continued use. Bikes leave ruts which can lead to erosion. Even human and heavier dog imprints can damage the trail. Over time, the trails become harder and damage is less of an issue. RVHA is asked to aid in getting the word out to its members to please refrain from using the trails following a heavier rain. Another issue is illegal use at night. Snakes and lizards only have a small area to hunt and people using the Preserve after hours disrupt their hunting for food at night. Fraesfield and Brown's Ranch have automatic gates which close at night. Granite Mountain does not. Another issue is the 12+ step overs along 136th Street. Most use of the step overs is from locals accessing the Preserve. Additional signage has been proposed but the cost is extremely high, about \$1200. Signs are enclosed in a lockable, heavier gauged, metal box. 5 messages/panels are in each box with different messages. The Preserve would need 30 to cover every step over.

Equine Self-Defense – Terry

Terry participated in the Ride-With- A-Cop event. Another participant was a female police officer with the City of Tempe who had recently presented an Equine Self-Defense course. The officer advised Terry that there is a good chance that we can hold such an event for our membership. Terry will follow up with the officer.

Yard Sale – March 19

The yard sale will be held March 19 at the Rural Metro Fire station from 9:00 – noon. Three people have signed up so far. Richelle Fatheree an RVHA member is among a group of community members who would like to set up a table selling baked goods in support of Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center's request for a special use permit. The board was in favor of the group's participation. Jean will set up a table to sell RVHA decals.

Spring Potluck Event – April 16

The potluck event will be held at the Rural Metro Fire Station. Members will be asked to bring a potluck dish to share and the board will provide pulled pork as the main entrée. American Tradition will provide music at a cost of \$350. Terry will confirm their availability.

Donations will be sought for an auction at the event. Artist Sue Gillette has already offered to provide an item. Terry will seek out additional items for the auction.

Mo reported that RVHA member Steve Glick and his band are anxious to perform at one of our events.

Election Committee - Marjorie

Marjorie reported that Barbara Elliott and Marlene Kinsella have agreed to be on the election committee.

Jean Anderson and Claudia Jordan both advised the board that they will not seek re-election. Other board members due to run this year are Jenny Powers, Judy Riley and Terry Stecyk.

Rattlesnake Avoidance Classes - Terry

Shadow Hill Ranch will host classes on March 12 and 13. Web will once again teach the classes of 6 dogs each. All classes are currently full. It will be Web's last year to conduct the course.

Willow Raven will hold classes at Lorill Equestrian Center on April 16. The training will be conducted on a one-on-one basis for \$50.00 per dog.

New Business

Arizona Horse Council

The dues have been paid.

Salt River Horses

A brief update was given on the status of the Salt River horses. It may be that ranchers want the horses off Tonto Forest land as they lease the area for grazing. Kelly Townsend is trying to obtain state ownership of the horses. In its attempt the state is trying to word its efforts to eliminate "wild" from the description of the horses. At this time Tonto Forest officials are not taking any action in this regard.

Spring Trail Ride

A trail ride has been scheduled for March 20 at Lorill Equestrian Center. Lori has offered her horses for rent at \$50.00 each. Twelve horses will be available. Riders are to meet at 9:00 am with Lori leading the ride from 10:00 am to noon. Marjorie will pick up chicken wraps, beverages and drinks for the lunch that follows.

Website Advertising

A decision has not yet been made on how to add advertisers to the website. Mo asked Claudia for her suggestions as Claudia was a Roundup advertiser. Marjorie and/or Terry will forward Jenny's endurance riders' website to Claudia for her review.

Frank Turben has informed us that he can put a tracker on the RVHA website to determine how many people have looked at the site.

Rio Verde Foothills Area Plan

Jean has spoken with Carol Shuler who heads up the efforts to revise the area plan. Carol informed Jean that the county currently has no time to work on the plan.

Trilogy Development

The management at Trilogy has asked if the RVHA wishes to man a booth at their March 12 open house. Terry informed them that we will not participate.

Jean reported that Trilogy has sold 125 homes.

Rio Verde Drive/Forest Road Development

Jean informed the board that the development at the southwest corner of Rio Verde Drive and Forest Road is currently in the planning stage. In addition to town homes a convenience store is being considered. A medical facility has also been suggested.

Classified Ads

The RVHA weekly internet classified ads were briefly discussed. In particular the board discussed whether or not to continue to charge a fee for the ads. The board determined that the current charges should remain in effect although a review of the fee guidelines is recommended.

Additions to Board Minutes

Terry suggested that board minutes include an overview of what the organization has done over the previous month. Marjorie explained that the minutes are to include discussions and actions taken by the board in addition to reports given at each meeting. It was suggested that perhaps a new board member elected in the next election could be responsible for summarizing board activities and submitting it as a report to the board.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:50pm and seconded.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6th. Mo will bring refreshments. Location to be Lorill Equestrian Center.

Submitted by

Marjorie Porter