

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 1, 2015

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

Absent: None

Guests: None

Reports

Minutes – Jenny

The minutes from the March meeting were distributed via email prior to the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded, passed without comment.

Treasurer's Report – Judy

The March report was distributed to the Board members including the quarterly comparison. There was a question concerning the reimbursement for a survey expense (\$26). The expense covered one month of an enhanced survey tool on Survey Monkey to allow more than nine questions to appear in the membership survey and to include the RVHA logo. The service has since been cancelled so this was a one-time expense. A motion to accept the report was made and seconded and there were no additional questions or comments.

Membership Report - Mo

As of this date there are 564 members. Of those, 59 are new for 2015.

Facebook Report - Terry

There are currently 470 "likes" on the site, which is a significant increase from the last report. Terry attributed the increase in large part to the postings regarding the tragic shooting and killing of the horse, Gringo and the news updates that followed. There has been an increase in the sharing and posting of information. Terry reposts information from other sites as appropriate. Terry and Mo have approval authority for posts from members to the RVHA site.

Terry asked for opinions about sharing information with other community sites. After discussion it was decided that RVHA will not generally share information on the Rio Verde Bulletin Board due to the often negative nature of comments made – the messaging is not the same culture as RVHA has established. The other site, Rio Verde Swap is for sale of items and free opportunities and it serves a different purpose than the dissemination of information and sharing of events and activities from RVHA. Terry will continue to monitor both sites and cross post information, such as lost and found animals as appropriate.

Email Discussion of Board Business

Occasionally in the interest of time or efficiency topics are discussed by the Board via email and may also be voted on as appropriate with the email serving as a report. In order to capture this information into the formal record of the minutes, Mo or other Board members will summarize email actions at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

- **Large Animal Rescue** – a discussion took place via email in March to sponsor someone from our area to participate in the next rescue training program. A decision was needed early in order to secure space. The training fee was donated by RVHA and the program will be held at America West. Rural Metro will be sending a sergeant to be trained in this program utilizing RVHA's donation.

Old Business

Social Committee – Carmela

- **RVHA Yard Sale – March 14**

Loma Vista Ranch

Feedback included comments that the roadside signs need to specify “garage sale” rather than a generic “event” to generate more interest. “Event” may be interpreted as members only rather than open to the public. Type on the signs needs to be increased for better visibility. Although some vendors were successful, the overall turnout was not as good as anticipated.

- **Barb's Trail Dedication – April 19**

A trail dedication event is planned at 136th Street and Old Paint to celebrate the naming of a favorite trail of Barb Hull's and to recognize Barb's contributions to the community and the inspiration she has been to those who know her. A potluck BBQ is planned at Carmela's ranch following the dedication. RVHA will promote the event. Carmela will invite guests to the BBQ via email.

Trail Ride Committee – Terry

- **Trail Ride – April 12**

So far 10 riders have signed up for the ride from Arizona Cowboy College into the Tonto National Forest followed by lunch hosted by RVHA. The cost for members is \$5. Lori will have rental horses available by reservation. Marjorie will pick up lunch and Terry will provide chips and drinks.

Promotional Items

Jean reported there have been no requests to fulfil since the last meeting.

Election Committee - Claudia

- Instructions were emailed April 1. The first email to provide voting information will be April 3 with a reminder to follow. Voting will close on April 10. The election meeting will be held on April 18 at Arizona Cowboy College.
- No candidates' names were received in the call for nominations so all Board members are running unopposed.

Membership Survey

The Board members brought some suggestions to the meeting with regard to new and different events to increase attendance and member interest.

- Pancake Breakfast – Carmela will coordinate. Rural Metro was suggested with a tour of a fire truck for children. The event could also mark the second anniversary of the Rural Metro fire station.
- SW Wildlife Tour – members could tour the facility and bring donated items as needed by the Center. Terry will coordinate this event.
- Burger Nite – Fall Burger Nite could be held at a large ranch as suggested by the survey responses. Claudia will speak to American West as a potential venue.
- Claudia will introduce RVHA to the new owners of Cave Creek Outfitters and discuss the potential for events, including a Burger Nite at this venue in the Fall.

Jenny will prepare an executive summary of the survey responses for the next RVHA newsletter. Jenny and Marjorie will compile the open-ended questions for further discussion by the Board members and to use in planning actions for the Association going forward.

New Business

Toad Avoidance Training

Terry is organizing sessions for June 6, 7 and 8. More information will be coming soon.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 p.m. and seconded.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting is Wednesday, May 6. Social at 6:30pm and meeting begins at 7:00pm. Refreshments provided by Lori. The location will be Bridwell Equestrian Center/Arizona Cowboy College unless otherwise noted.

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary