

# **Rio Verde Horsemen's Association**

## **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**February 5, 2014**

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

**Committees:** None other than Board members

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Carol Shuler, RVHA member

### **Guest Speaker – Carol Shuler, Desert Discovery Center**

Carol asked to speak to the Board about plans for the construction of the Desert Discovery Center as part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The Center is to be constructed on Preserve land adjacent to the Gateway access point on Thompson Peak Parkway north of Bell Road.

Carol provided background information regarding the original small-scale center at the Pinnacle Peak General Store and the need to provide education on the desert environment to tourists, schools and residents alike. The Center will be modeled after the Sonoran Desert Museum, but without the collection of animals and the Desert Botanical Garden, but with a focus on the native flora of the area. The Center will become a minor source of job opportunity as well. Oversight of the Center will be under the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, but separate management will be formed. The logistics and structure has not been worked out.

Other local communities and organizations have become involved and Carol suggested involvement in some way for RVHA. There is no formal Board, but there is a group of like-minded individuals with talents to share in making the Discover Center a reality. Carol suggested RVHA would want to show support (not necessarily financial), inform membership, and have representation in this group.

Because the representation aspect is still vague, the RVHA Board agreed to provide information as appropriate and to consider Carol as the information source or informal liaison with the Discovery Center group. Carol will not formally represent RVHA in this capacity. Since several RVHA members are already involved with the Conservancy it was felt that providing information when available to our membership would result in individual support and participation. Carol will report to the Board as information becomes available.

### **Minutes**

The minutes from the January 2014 meeting were previously distributed via email and the only comment was a minor correction to the number of "likes" on the RVHA Facebook page. A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded without discussion. Marjorie has an updated copy for the website posting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The report was distributed. The balances are as follows: Checking account \$6,888.00; Savings account \$593.32; PayPal account \$893.29 and petty cash \$371.50 for a total of \$8,746.11. The charitable donations approved at the last meeting have been distributed to the organizations. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded. Accepted with no opposition.

### **Membership Report**

Currently there are 543 total members for 2014 as of this meeting, which reflects a high number of early renewals. There are 30 new members for 2014. RVHA may be on track for another record-setting year of membership growth.

### **Social Committee - Carmela**

- **Chili Cook-off – February 9 - noon**  
Reminders will be sent for attendance and cook-off entrants. There are currently 9-10 entries. There are 27 RSVPs so far but more are expected
- **Yard Sale –March 22**  
Carmela is researching venues and a “save the date” notice will be sent to the membership.
- **Spring Dinner Dance – April 12**  
The date is tentative pending confirmation from Cave Creek Outfitters as the venue. Discussions included options for the dance floor and band. The band has not been confirmed. Carmela will follow-up.
- **Burger Nite – May or June**  
Carmela will research. Greasewood Flat is the preferred venue.

### **Facebook Report - Terry**

229 likes. All up-coming events have been posted. Updates will be made following tonight's meeting.

### **Welcome Committee - Claudia**

There were only 11 closings in the area since December 1. Claudia will send packets to the nine local addresses. Sales are down, which is expected through the holidays, but continuing into January was not anticipated.

### **Trail Rides Committee – Terry**

#### **Spring Ride – March 9**

A trail ride with Rocco as leader will depart from Arizona Cowboy College. An 8:30am gathering time and 9:00am departure is planned. The ride will conclude at noon followed by an informal lunch. Rental horses are available at \$50 for three hours. Entertainment is planned following the ride and lunch is priced at \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. Judy will pick up individual packages of chips and cookies. Mo will provide beverages and Jenny and Marjorie offered to pick up Subway sandwiches for the lunch. Terry will create a flyer to post and Judy will update the website buttons for payment.

## ***Old Business***

### **Bylaws Committee**

The revisions to the Bylaws passed with a good response and the official count for approval was reached on January 20. New members are being sent a copy of the updated Bylaws. A notification will be sent to the membership that the revised Bylaws are available for download on the website. The Bylaws will also be promoted on the Facebook page. There was very little discussion on the revisions and just a few opposed.

### **Volunteer Day – March 1**

March 1 was suggested as the proposed day. Jenny will check with Reigning Grace on the date. RVHA will provide water and soft drinks for volunteers. Snacks or donuts for the morning will be provided. Reigning Grace will be asked to provide a list of proposed projects, tools needed, skills needed, etc. for volunteer recruitment.

### **Hike – Brown’s Ranch Trailhead – February 15**

No educational speaker is available at this location on the selected day so there will only be a hike planned. Randy will lead the hike this time and will provide a plan so that the hike can be promoted with a description of difficulty. Participants will bring their own lunch to enjoy after the hike.

### **Vista Verde Task Group**

Five members of the task group met with the County commissioners and asked questions related to density, water, traffic, quality of life, and conformance to the master plan. There was an answer for everything. There were six letters of support and all of the supporters stand to gain financially from the change in density. There were 50 letters of opposition. A campaign is planned to solicit opposition to submit to the County before the next meeting. Carmela will write an article to send to members letting them know how hard the task group has worked on the community’s behalf regardless of the outcome.

Water is the primary concern and a meeting is planned with the developer and the Arizona Department of Water Resources to discuss liabilities. A traffic study is planned, but will be at the top of the hill on Rio Verde Drive so will not reflect impact going south from Vista Verde.

A continued effort will be made to oppose this project.

## ***New Business***

### **Dance Lessons - Terry**

Amy and Dan have donated the use of their shop as a venue for the dance lessons. The lessons begin February 12 and are paid in advance. There are 15 couples signed up for the program. Cost is \$150 for a couple and \$75 for singles. The standard RVHA waiver is sufficient and Terry will have copies signed once for the entire session of lessons. Terry will let Judy know how the instructor wishes to be paid.

### **Tonto Forest Listening Sessions**

Jenny provided a detailed report to the Board following attendance at the listening session January 22. There were seven sessions held that day and Jenny attended the last one in the evening. Input from individuals and organizations with any interest in the Tonto Forest are being solicited to form task groups to address the updating of the plan for the Forest. The plan dates from 1985 with some amendments since then and it is very outdated. The plan updates will reflect the interests of timber, grazing and recreational use of the Forest. A workshop is planned for March in which interested groups and individuals will learn how to form the task groups and proceed. The coaches at the listening sessions insist that the Forest Service is committed to incorporating outside interests rather than the previous pattern of gathering input and ignoring it. Jenny made suggestions of RVHA members who may do well representing RVHA . When information is available on the workshops it will be shared with membership to encourage participation.

### **Election Committee – April 26**

An election committee must be formed 60 days prior to the annual lunch meeting announcing election results. The lunch is scheduled for April 26 and a location will be determined. The committee is made up of one Board member and one voting member from the general membership. This year's committee is tentatively made up of Marjorie and Pam Griffith. The committee informs and recruits nominations by informing membership of the opportunity. The committee reviews nominations to ensure the candidates meet criteria and sends a notice of acceptance or denial to the candidates. The committee establishes the voting deadline, initiates the distribution of election materials and announces the results. The deadline must be absolute and according to the newly revised Bylaws there will be no nominations from the floor.

### **Snake Proofing**

March 8 Arizona Cowboy College with Jim Walkington.

TBD at Stecyk residence with Web Parton.

### **Emergency Rescue - Pets**

The Board approved the donation of one Fido Bag for the fire department if the department agrees to purchase the second one (one for each truck). If a second one is not purchased then RVHA will donate two rescue bags. The bags contain equipment used in the rescue of household pets in the event of a fire or other emergency. The cost is approximately \$125. A motion was made to approve the purchase of one, or if necessary, two rescue bags for donation to Rural Metro Fire Department. The motion passed without opposition. Carmela or Mo will follow-up with Rural Metro.

### **Trail Sign for Barb Hull Trail - Proposed**

Carmela and Joe met with Scott Hamilton and Liz Hildebrand from the City of Scottsdale to discuss naming a trail to honor Barb Hull, a long-time RVHA member whose health is deteriorating. The sign posted by Carmela was removed by a Preserve steward. It is difficult to receive permission to name a trail after an individual so Carmela will begin the process to present a case to name a gate for Barb. A petition will follow.

**Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is Wednesday, March 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:

March – Marjorie

April – Terry

May – Lori

June – Claudia

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary