



MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

JANUARY 6, 2014 BOARD MEETING

MISSOULA COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE, LARGE MEETING ROOM

6:30–7pm Closed Special Meeting (Board members only)

7:00–9:30pm Regularly Scheduled Meeting (open attendance)

Board Members present: Rachel Ambrose, Lisa Barnes, Colleen Harrison, Jake Kolb, Sheila Mealey, Eunice Misbe, Jim O'Reilly, Erika Scofield, Kim Stickler, Lynn Thee (Quorum)

Board Members absent (excused): Valerie Knudson, Jeff Patterson, Carolyn Quinn

I. CLOSED SESSION Roberts Rules of Order session canceled: member did not appear. Closed Session of the Board: RE: P&P rule XIII (A) Complaint against a member re: "Member in Good Standing" insert from MHC policies and procedures:

1. Shall be current with membership dues.
2. Will endeavor to promote the common goals set forth in the MHC mission statement and a good community reputation.
3. Shall use the park and park facilities responsibly and with care, following the rules as best understood.
4. Shall not deface, destroy, derogate, or without regard for the environment of the park purposely or knowingly litter any part of the premises.
5. Shall be of good moral turpitude.
6. Will not intentionally demean, slander or liable other members before the public.
7. Will not exercise public comments or conduct with the intent to damage the reputation of the MHC, the park or any other member thereof.
8. Will treat all other members of the Park with respect, courtesy and reasonable social tolerance. For the purpose of this rule, reasonable social tolerance does not mean a member or the Board must tolerate behavior of other members, which constitutes a violation of any part of this rule.
9. Will not purposely or knowingly make false or misleading complaints pertaining to this rule against other members.
10. Will not practice drunkenness, lewd, violent or unbecoming behavior not socially acceptable for mixed and/or family audiences while on the park premises or at MHC functions, meetings or other associated gatherings.

B. Remedy

1. Any member or Board member may file a complaint of infractions of the Member in Good Standing Rule. Complaints must be made to the Board of the MHC on a form prescribed by the MHC with specificity and good cause, supported by collaborating evidence. Uncollaborated complaints will be dismissed by the Board upon receipt.
2. Any member found by the Board "not in good standing" as set forth above and verified by collaborating evidence presented to the board in a formal written complaint, will receive one (1) written warning from the board to cease and desist such noncompliant behavior. A person found by the Board to be in violation of the Member in Good Standing rule within one year of the first warning, will be subject to having their membership revoked for a period of at least twelve (12) months from the Board's determination, with a maximum revocation to be determined by the Board.
3. A member having been accused of violating the Member in Good Standing Rule may file a written response defending the accusation(s). The Board will hear and consider the accused member's response in defense and any evidence or witness testimony at a closed session of a regular meeting to determine the merits of the complaint and defendant's response.

7:00 P.M. MEETING OPEN FOR REGULARLY SCHEDULED JANUARY MEETING

WELCOME MEMBERS AND GUESTS: Council Members and Guests present: Barbara Howell, Matt Gibson (CASA run event), Drue Kerns, Doug Cox, Katherine Cox, Tara Jensen (CASA), Kitty Herrin, Bill Dahlgren (BSSC)

II. JIM CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7PM President Jeff Patterson is absent due to a personal emergency. New Board members were welcomed and round-table introductions were shared.

III. ROLL CALL AND MEETING PROTOCOL All present please sign attendance roster being circulated. . The MHC meeting protocol encourages each member, and guests, to voice opinions and concerns in a non-controversial, round-table format.

IV. NEW BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION Jim gave a brief overview of the structure and function of the board and its relationship to the BSSC and County Commissioners. Bill Dahlgren, BSSC President, explained the background of the MEP and Big Sky Park, and the development of the Big Sky Park Plan (Tower Street Park Plan). There was a discussion to explain the process of getting approval for park improvements. Everyone is welcome to attend the BSSC meeting at any time. It is open to public attendance. Next meeting is January 15 at 6:30pm.

V. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES Lisa explained the process of minutes distribution, approval, and posting. After each meeting, minutes are distributed electronically to board members for review and feedback, generally within a few days to 1 week after the meeting. The reviewed/amended draft is posted on the web immediately in an effort to make board information accessible to all council members in a timely manner. December minutes were distributed electronically on December 6th for preview by board. The amended draft was posted on MEP website. Jim offered new suggested wording changes in the BSSC committee report and WEA committee report, pp. 2 and 3 of Dec. minutes. Erika made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed, with the changes requested by Jim. Eunice seconded. Motion carried.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS Jim announced that Jeff's horse had to be put down today. Jeff will re-join board activities in the near future.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT FROM EUNICE The treasurer's report was distributed electronically for preview by the Board prior to the meeting. The Finance/Audit committee had their first meeting. A proposed budget has been prepared and distributed. Approval of that budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Barbi asked whether we have insurance. Our previous insurance expired in October. A new insurance plan has been identified and will be discussed at the next meeting. Jeff is working on that. Erika made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Jake seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. GUEST PRESENTATIONS Matt Gibson, representing "Be SORE" and Tara Jensen of CASA- reported on changes in the Mud Run, previously the "Dirty Dash," as a benefit for CASA. Matt is requesting to pursue a contract, which will include additional advertising for the park, a 2 yr contract for the event to be held on the park, and a greater dollar amount per year than was paid by the Dirty Dash in 2013. CASA requests to hold the event on the 6th of September. The Dirty Dash is also scheduled on September 6, 2014, in Missoula. Jeff has a copy of this proposed contact with MHC. The next BSSC committee meeting is January 15. Further discussion and a vote were deferred to the next meeting. Approval will involve BSSC.

A member of the audience stated that the Dirty Dash is scheduled to be at Barbi Howell's venue in 2014. Barbi acknowledged that this is true and that DD is paying quite a bit less than they paid to have the event at Missoula Equestrian Park. Eunice stated that the fact DD does not intend to return to the Park is new information to the Board and questioned how long Barbi was aware of this information. Barbi responded that it was discussed at the December 2013 meeting, but Eunice and others asserted that this information definitely was NOT disclosed at the December meeting. The mud run discussion at the December meeting centered around Matt Gibson's presentation for his organization, BSORE, to take over the mud run event that benefits CASA. Eunice then, as a point of clarification, asked Barbi if she negotiated the Dirty Dash contract while she was still on the MHC Board. Barbi did not directly respond to this inquiry.

IX. MAINTENANCE REPORT JIM O'REILLY AND BILL DAHLGREN (BSSC) Bill read from the Plan, the "neighborhood park" language. He is requesting the Board's endorsement for an area parking area to be constructed on the corner of Maverick Lane and Tower St. The request is to establish a small parking area in an effort to limit curbside parking in the neighborhood. This will not be a paved lot; it will have a more horse-friendly surface. Missoula Public Works department has been involved in the proposed plan. This proposed lot would be funded with county dollars both for construction and ongoing maintenance. There would be no initial or ongoing cost to the park. Bill requested to have input from our grounds and habitat specialist (Christine) at some point. Additional off-street parking areas within the park are in the planning stages to be constructed several years in the future. Lynn made a motion to approve the BSSC proposal for this 'phase 1' parking lot; Colleen seconded. Motion carried.

❖ ADA Pad—Jim explained the history of planning for construction of the ADA pad. Jim met with Steve @ public works, and the pad has been completed. It is 7'x 10', larger than the required dimensions for an ADA pad. A single vehicle parking/unloading area is completed along with the ADA pad.

❖ Damage to the East fence—the responsible parties have been identified and a request was made to hold them accountable and to submit to their insurance where appropriate.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Audit Committee report: Lisa and Eunice reported on the first meeting of the audit committee on January 2. Eunice responded to the committee's questions on the financials and reports. The committee will meet on Jan 16 without Eunice, to review the deposits and account transactions.

❖ Lease contract negotiations: ongoing. We are now in our second six-month lease extension. Further discussion is deferred to the next meeting.

❖ Website report: Kitty reported that the website is up to date; she will post the Tower Street Plan (or link) and other documents as requested.

❖ Membership report: Erika reported that the lock combination will be changed for this membership year. Bill will change the combination code.

❖ Advertisement committee: Kitty suggested that this committee be re-titled the "Sponsorship" committee. Further discussion and committee assignment is deferred

❖ Western Events Arena committee report from Jim: further discussion and committee assignment is deferred

❖ Grounds and Habitat Development and Enhancement: deferred

❖ Events Coordinators' Report: deferred

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

❖ Certificate of Insurance: Laura Bakker has submitted her insurance to the park.

❖ Eunice shared a thank you mailing that was received from Liz Manley for making the park available for the "Miles for Mike" 5K benefit for Mike Browne, which was held on November 16th. A copy will be posted on the web, Eunice will email to Kitty to post.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ Election process: deferred. Drue explained the voting faux pas that occurred on the ballot this year, which resulted in a lack of clarity on how many votes should be cast on each ballot. Two more candidates were discovered and added to the ballot after the wording was completed.
- ❖ Board members holding two positions: deferred. Jim was appointed to two separate vote-holding board seats at the December meeting. Barbi explained that, according to our January 2013 minutes, one individual cannot hold two voting positions on the board. Lisa reported that this is clarified as well in “Roberts Rules of Order” references. Further discussion on this occurrence is deferred to the next meeting.
- ❖ Insurance for the Park: deferred for Jeff’s presentation
- ❖ Back Country Horseman proposed obstacle trail: Jim explained the aim and status of the proposed obstacle trail. Further discussion is deferred at this time.
- ❖ Round pen repairs: this project is on hold for the winter.
- ❖ Hitching rails: also on hold for the winter. Posts need to be secured by concrete.
- ❖ Use of park for commercial camps or lessons: a letter was mailed to the membership. Drue explained the issues of concern. Kitty pointed out that we do not have a form for instructors and clinicians to submit to the board, which would explain the expectation that insurance must be submitted to the park, the Park must be listed on that insurance as “other” insured, and that clinic or lesson participants must be park members or purchase a day pass for use of the park

XIII. NEW BUSINESS deferred to next meeting

- ❖ Review of By-laws: Reaffirm or appoint a committee to modify. -deferred
- ❖ Establishment of superintendents v. committee chairs. This may require a by-laws change. Discussion is deferred
- ❖ Committee to explore funding for additional barns
- ❖ Storage of MHC records.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Colleen seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7pm – ‘Part 2’ of our regular January meeting.
Missoula County Extension Office main meeting room Santa Fe Court.

Minutes are submitted on January 7, 2014 electronically (amended at the February 4 meeting)

Lisa Barnes, Secretary