

Special Meeting of the Missoula Horsemen's Council

January 28, 2014 Board Meeting
Upstairs observation room at Willowbend Farm
13400 Turah Rd, Turah
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

- I. **Call to Order** – Jeff calls the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Jeff welcomes Board members and guests, introductions given in round-table format.
- II. **Roll Call** – All present please sign attendance roster
- III. **Special Purpose-** This special meeting is called by President Jeff Patterson for the following reasons:
 - 1. The urgent need to address the loss of the Dirty Dash event and no-compete clause in the contract that prohibits like events at the park. Both the County and the proposing event contractor (BSORE) are seeking a decision from the MHC regarding the 2014 and future use of the equestrian park for various community runs like or similar to the Dirty Dash.

Jeff relates that per the DD contract, no run with obstacles could be held within the contract timeframe. We do not have an enforceable lease with the county; the tower street plan is antiquated and in conflict with our lease agreement so have no definition for what is enforceable in the Tower Street Plan pertaining to the Equestrian Park.

Jim discussed that per our county contract, we have no responsibility of the property that the runs would use.

Jeff suggests to hold back from outside events and encourages the board to focus on building a foundation based on a revised contract and Tower Street Plan, before looking into holding events outside of the scope of MEP.

Jeff reported that Lisa Moise at the County would not support changing the venue from the Missoula Mucker to The Dirty Dash this late in the year.

Val made a motion to not put a mud run on this year. Carolyn seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Colleen asked to discuss a motion to not pursue events outside of the scope of our lease. Discussion followed.

Colleen made a motion that MHC will not hold any non-equestrian events until we have a structure in place. Eunice seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Delinquent liability insurance and board of director coverage.

Jeff reported that the underwriter of Allen Financial Insurance Group would not write a lease due to the board having limited control over access to the park's premises. They will not be responsible for invitees of the county. Either the County needs to take more responsibility or give MHC responsibility in order for an insurance group to approve our policy.

Sheila asked if we could look into what West Side Little League does for their insurance. Rachel inquired if the County, Lisa Moise, would be able to assist in finding an adequate insurance plan. Jeff reported that after having conversations with Mrs. Moise, the county would not be able to guide us.

Christine Foster suggested we look into how Herron Park handles their insurance and access. Rachel said she would look into it.

Jeff has submitted the application for directors insurance, however it will not go through until we have general liability insurance and that we need a lease agreement with the County. AFIG related that if MHC posted signs warning "Ride at your own risk" per Montana Equine Participation Act, then AFIG may write the insurance for MEP. Putting up signs will protect us to a certain degree, but not totally, due to unforeseeable circumstances.

Rachel inquired about the County lease contract. Jeff reported the County has extended the lease for 6 months, no new contract has been agreed upon yet due to lack of water rights, inadequate insurance and other issues.

Sheila inquired how MHC would pay for increased amount of liability insurance if we do not hold outside events. Jeff deferred to Eunice who reported that per our

finances we would have enough to cover the general liability and directors insurance.

Jim made a motion to have warning signs, ride at your own risk per Montana Equine Participant Act, made and posted at all entrances. Rachel seconded motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Water rights and/or water use from the ditch passing through the park.
Jim has been looking into water rights. Several wells have been found on property, only the one at Little League has water right paperwork. Jim reported there is a difference between ditch and water rights. Jeff reported our lease with the county does not provide any water rights, but it requires that water is used for dust control. We could look into abandoned water rights.
4. This meeting is open to the public and general park membership. Generally the Board invites general members and the public to participate in Board discussions. However, due to the nature of the issues on the agenda, the discussions of this special meeting will be held only by and between Board members. The Board may choose to allow public comments at the conclusion of the Board discussion with a time limit for each commenter of 3 minutes.

Adjournment

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jake seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 4th 2014 at 7 pm., meeting room, Joker's Wild on North Reserve St.

Minutes are submitted on February 14th, 2014 electronically.



Erika Scofield, Board Member