



## MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL

STEWARDS OF THE MISSOULA EQUESTRIAN PARK

### MISSOULA HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL BOARD MEETING June 3, 2014, 7 p.m. Missoula County Extension Conference Room

Meeting was called to order by Jeff Patterson at 7:20 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Jeff Patterson, Lynn Thee, Eunice Misbe, Rachel Ambrose, Cindy Arnott, Jake Kolb, Sheila Mealey, Carolyn Quinn, Kim Stickler

**Absent:** Colleen Harrison (excused), Val Knudsen (excused), Erika Scofield (excused)

**Guests:** Drue Kerns, Bill Bucher, Vicki Balfour

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the April 1 and April 29 meetings were previously electronically distributed by Eunice for review prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Lynn made a motion and Carolyn seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. All approved, motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer's Report was previously electronically distributed by Eunice for review prior to the meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Carolyn made a motion and Rachel seconded the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All approved, motion carried.

**GUEST PRESENTATIONS:** None

**MAINTENANCE REPORT:** Bill reported the **weeds** are growing fast and he weeded today. Carolyn will research getting a weed grant. BSSC has indicated there is money available for weed reduction.

A letter was sent from a Park neighbor complaining about **dust** in the 4-H arena. Cindy offered to water the arena for dust abatement, which began a discussion of other people besides Bill running the water truck. Training sessions will need to be provided for any new drivers. Rachel made a motion and Sheila seconded the motion to appoint Eunice to research the insurance ramifications of adding additional drivers to our policy. If there will be no significant increase in the cost of insurance, a training date will be June 9, 7 p.m., and conducted by Bill.

Bill indicated that the “new” **pump** appears to be used. It will be tested prior to use to ensure wiring was completed correctly.

Bill would like to get a **power washer**. Lynn indicated she will check to see if the ranch has one they would donate.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Lease Negotiations:** Still in holding pattern. Westside has their new contract and the Legion is almost complete. It appears there will be major changes in the MHC contract. A special meeting will be called when the contract is finally complete.

### **BSSC report:**

One of the major concerns, which must be clarified, is that the County invites the public to use the Park. MHC has been required to carry the insurance and accept liability. Discussion centers around who owns the liability for the public invited by the County and who has jurisdiction. Example: Dogs are supposed to be on a leash, but most people allow them to run free off leash. More signage is needed, but who is responsible to pay for it? Who is responsible when a dog causes an equine-related or non-equine accident? Wildlife habitat can't even be developed with dogs running free.

- **Dirty Dash Reclamation:** BSSC requests that remainder of Dirty Dash Reclamation be completed on several trails. Pit near the tower is priority. Bill will follow up. Parking Lot 1 looks good. Smurf Course between #7 and #8 needs work.
- **Doggie Stations:** BSSC bought 12 doggie stations, 3 of which are for MEP. They need signage indicating where to dispose of the waste and instructions that dogs must be leashed. BSSC will provide the waste bags. Who will pick up the bags and dispose of them?
- **Promotion of Western events:** BSSC questioned why there are not many events in the Western Events Arena. It was noted that these events require a considerable amount of organization and personnel to produce and we do not have as many people to do so at this time. In addition, these types of events usually are more than one day and require the livestock and their caretakers to be stalled and/or camped overnight. At this time we are not allowed to have overnights. Many Western events require pens and chutes, which are not in the current budget. Kim noted that she has been involved in a lot of MBHA events and would like to help organize barrel racing starting with frequent “time onlys”. Power or a generator to provide power at the WEA is also a need

Jeff proposed that a WEA Action Group be formed to work on promoting

events in the WEA, researching grants, and coordinating with the PR Action Group to obtain sponsorships. Sheila made a motion and Carolyn seconded the motion to form the WEA Action Group. All in favor, motion carried. Carolyn, Lynn, Cindy, Kim, and Jake volunteered to serve in this group.

Cindy will report to BSSC that this group has been formed.

- **Jump Course/Perimeter Trail:** The original trail was 10 feet wide but has lost some of its width. BSSC will create a plan to bring the trail back to original width.

The number of courses we currently have has exceeded the approved number in the Tower Street Plan. We need to get approval from BSSC before proceeding with anything new. Erika conducted a walkthrough with BSSC representatives. Carolyn will send Cindy all the information MHC has submitted so far, and Cindy will request an action item be added to the BSSC agenda. BSSC is an advisory committee, not an action board, so we have recourse, if needed. Cindy noted that we need to get along with the neighborhood and move forward now in a positive way.

BSSC has requested that white paint not be used on the jumps in the future. Discussed requesting BSSC purchase the color they approve and our volunteers would paint the jumps.

- **West Fence:** BSSC and MHC are to partner in rebuilding the West fence. Cindy suggested developing a plan and presenting it to BSSC with a request they assist with the expense. Bill will get a count of needed posts and wire. Bill and Cindy will work together and have a plan ready by next BSSC meeting.
- **ADA Pad:** Jeff met with Lisa about building another ADA parking area near the WEA arena. Will work further on this.

**WATER JUMP DYE:** Rachel made a motion and Carolyn seconded the motion to dye the pond blue in time for the mini event.

**WEBSITE REPORT:** None

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Emailed by Erika

**PR ACTION GROUP:**

- **Buy Local** event went well for the first year.

- Discussed updating representatives for **Waddell & Reed** endowment account per recommendation of Alex Clemow, our account manager. Alex indicated the representatives should be current Board members. Discussed the need for the current Board president to always be on the account. Rita and Laura will need to sign off and Jeff, as the current president, will need to sign on. Jeff will write a letter to the current trustees explaining the need to make this change and will include a copy of the minutes with the letter.
- It is very time consuming **computing scores** manually. There is a volunteer that would perform this function for \$100. Carolyn and Rachel will also research the cost of software designed for scorekeeping and a laptop to run the software. They will report findings at next meeting.

**EVENT COORDINATOR REPORT:** Pony event went very well, and damage deposit will be returned.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Grounds and Habitat Development.** On Hold
- Back Country Horsemen **proposed obstacle** trail – Need to get on the BSSC agenda and Cindy will make request. Need to have outline prepared and initial meeting.
- **Round Pen Repairs** – Bill will disassemble and get the volunteers organized when he is ready to reassemble the pen.
- **Hitching Rails** – Bill will get the volunteers organized to complete this project the same day as the Round Pen project.
- **Wheels around water hydrants** – Brian Arnott can get steel drums to put around the hydrants. Can use solid tires to protect the risers.
- **Fee schedule for arenas** – Proposed schedule emailed by Cindy for review prior to meeting. Reviewed proposal. Noted there is a difference between fundraisers/activities where there is no revenue being generated and paid events where revenue is earned. This is reflected in the fee guideline. Remainder of fee schedule tabled until next meeting.
- **Lifetime Membership** – Discussed suspending Lifetime Memberships, which disable the Park from having a continuing revenue stream from year to year. Carolyn made a motion and Lynn seconded the motion to suspend Lifetime Memberships effective July 1. This will be reviewed in

2015 with the new membership year. Cindy will email Kitty and have her make the change on the application form.

- **Missoula Electric Coop** – MEC donated power poles for the new jumps. Need to provide Drue with MEC contact name and she will set up the acknowledgement of their donation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Signage**
  - Discussed injury of dog at park. Dog should have been on leash but was actually free off leash. Decided to send letter indicating apologies and well wishes.
  - Discussed adding additional leash requirement signage
  - Discussed designated parking area signage
  - Discussed jumping requirement signage
  - Discussed printing map in large size for entrance gate showing parking areas as well as location of arenas, restrooms, etc. Park would be more welcoming if more directions were provided. Rachel will work on this project.
- **Secretary/Treasurer positions** – Eunice indicated she would like to step down from the Treasurer position due to her time constraints and switch to secretary since that position opened up. Vicki Barbour indicated she would be interested in finding out more about the treasurer position to see if it would be a good fit for her. She and Eunice will meet before the next Board meeting.
- **Water Truck signage** – Need to get the sponsor signage on the water truck. Sheila will get an estimate of painting cost vs. cost of decals. Painting would have better longevity.

**Next meeting will be July 1, 2014, 7 p.m. Extension Office**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Eunice Misbe  
Treasurer (pending new appointment)/Secretary