



BIG SKY HORSE PARK

MISSOULA HORSE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING December 1st, 7 p.m. Thee Residence

Present: BOD Members: Lynn Thee, Lynn Lea, Sheila M., Joan S. Kim S., Aneill F., Val K., Cindy A., Rachel A., (excused Ginny F.) Non board: Penny and Bill B., Joanna K., assorted dogs and kids!

OLD BUSINESS:

The previous meeting minutes from November had been sent out to the BOD for approval. Sheila moved and Rachel seconded they be accepted. BOD all approved this.

Joanna had sent her financial accounting reports out to the BOD via email. She went over these. There was not much activity this month. Some income from membership and license plates as well as the last of the Buckle series. Sheila moved and Joan seconded the treasury reports be approved and thanked Joanna for her work on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

Non-Profit license plate partner selection: BOD voted via e-mail. Discussion and final vote done tonight. The Big Sky Pony Club was selected to receive the award for the 2016 year. There were 6 entries who all rated highly. The BOD felt the Pony Club had a broader base for advertising the license plates to a larger population and that they fit in well with the BSHP/MHC Mission Statement and philosophy. Sheila moved and Joan seconded to vote. All members present selected them tonight.

MHC will participate and promote the license plate at the "Parade of Lights" Saturday Dec. 5th in Missoula. Meet at The Missoulian parking lot on 4th and Higgins east. Be there by 1630 if you wish to participate. We have riders from the UM rodeo club.

Cindy reported on the elections which were done electronically. All the new applicants were accepted and the returning current board members of Lynn

Thee, Sheila Mealy, Kim Stickler, and Rachel Ambrose were approved. Val will no longer serve on the board, but will help on the English committee as a volunteer. One of the applicants (Jessie Lyons) for the board position had decided to serve on the Western Committee for 2016 and was removed from the election ballot. The new members are Sheila Miller and Arwyn Anthony. They will be contacted and invited to the retreat meeting in January. Cindy felt the electronic election went well and was the best way to do this for the future. Amandine Redington has also volunteered to help on the Western Events committee.

Sheila had done research on the LICENSES PLATES and we can order full size versions that are for display only-not for vehicles for a cost of \$10.00 per plate. A discussion came up with a good advertising method by a Facebook posting of "where do YOU "Ride the Big Sky" and we could post photos of the license plates at various events and locations. We felt these plates would be good to give to our founding members with their names on them and for sale to membership for display and advertising for \$25.00 each.

Lynn reported that the Management agreement contract was approved by the county and now would go to the Parks dept. Within this was approval of the number of jumps in accordance with the needs of the levels of the shows, the approval of the proposed acceptable color stains for jumps and wood, and that the Equestrian Park is NOT liable for non-horse related accidents that may occur on the park grounds. The Equestrian Park was required to carry a two million dollar liability policy for approval of the contract. The BSSC also supported the Equestrian Park to receive the total \$8,000 payment received from NW Energy for their line through the park this summer. A big thank you to the support of Bill Dahlgren in this.

The ADA trail is near completion and looking good. The County will pay the MEP back \$1000 when it is completed fully.

Lynn has promoted more cooperative efforts with grounds keeping, maintenance and use of equipment that the Baseball fields need to use and the BSHP could benefit from sharing with them. (Harrow drag and other items). It was felt more such cooperation should be actively promoted and proposed.

The "Incredible Inflatable Race" decided against using the BSHP for its event in 2016. Sheila reported.

Lynn Thee said that the W9-90 is completed. The accounting cost seemed high (\$600.00) and other options for this will be developed for next year. Cindy said her Mother was a resource for this.

Sheila had made and distributed the current list of events for 2016 and it is very active. She was proud of the BOD activities and support and help with getting the park to be used more regularly and increasing membership and events. She felt the current BOD and volunteers worked very well together and were a huge support to the MEP this year. Joan mentioned that Ginny Fay's weed report was

another very helpful addition. Rachel has been working hard on the website with Kailey. It is still needed to finalize on-line payments, registrations and all the paper forms we use as they currently are not formatted to work digitally. Rachel would like to see a live start to the BIG SKY HORSE PARK website and all the connections by January 2016.

WESTERN EVENTS:

The sand mix for the large western arena mix has been delivered to the park (323 tons at \$6400.00 cost) allowing us to use the balance to pay Mike Welling for his work up of the arena-when weather allows. The recent snow and freeze has delayed any action lately. New teeth for deeper tilling of the arena have been purchased to maintain it well. The BOD discussed promoting more and a wide variety of Western events next year including barrel racing, team penning and sorting, an obstacle challenge series the Buckle Series, and O-mok-see events, as well as clinics and trainings. The Special Olympics will have their event at the Park this year. The Missoula Fair would like to have their NW fair horse events at the park in 2016. It was mentioned they need to be contacted soon as many dates are already taken up!

MEETING AND RETREAT JANUARY 30TH, 2016

The next meeting will be held on Jan 4th at Perkins
There will be a BOD Retreat on Saturday January 30th 2016 at Ruby's Inn on Reserve Street. A full day of planning, committee membership sign up, explanations of various BOD duties, history, functions and expectations as well as getting to know one another. Breakfast will be at 0730 for those who want it and the meeting is to begin at 0800 and go through 1700 that day. All BOD members are expected to attend the day.

OTHER DISCUSSION:

A fun gift exchange was held along with many "thank you's" between everyone for all their fine work on the Board for this year and everyone was looking forward to accomplishing much more in 2016. Thank you to Lynn Thee for her outstanding work as President and her hosting of this meeting for everyone. Thank You cards were worked on to mail out to folks who helped this past year.

The applications for the partnership with the Ride the Big Sky license plates are listed below:

Big Sky Regional Pony Club (MT ID)
Faith Therapeutic Riding (Missoula/Lolo)
Bitterroot Therapeutic Riding (Corvallis)
Eagle Mount Therapeutic Riding (Bozeman)
Western Equine Rescue (Corvallis)
Wind Horse Equine Learning (Gallatin County)

Discussion: Aneill said she had polled about 20 horse people and all had said they would like to see the award go to a Therapeutic Riding facility. A discussion developed about how we needed to think about who would "get the word out" best about the license plates being available the best for us, esp. in this first year of having it. The board felt that the pony club had a broader reach for this and

that they also would buy and use the plated themselves and show it off at events. Cindy mentioned the dedication of the BSHP to youth and horsemanship in its Mission Statement and that the Pony Club represented that very well. Sheila discussed that this would be a yearly award and anyone could apply each year for selection. There was discussion about reaching many folks with the Eagle Mount location in Bozeman, too. After discussion, it was voted on and the Pony club was approved by the BOD as the recipient. Thanks went out to Sheila and Val for their hard work on this rewarding project for the future of our park.

Rachel presented a lot of work that was being done by her and Kalie on the Website and upgrades on Facebook and other on line adjuncts. She said this needs to be finished up in accordance with what we had stated with our hiring of her with our webpage. There are still some items remaining to be linked, including Pay Pal availability.

Joanna talked about expenditures for the year and how it is needed to really plan carefully for 2016 to not overspend without having more incoming income. The license plate income will greatly help as well the increase in events and activities. She is hoping for a good budget to come out of the retreat meeting and good plans of actions for expenditure in the coming year.

It was brought up how successful the Buckle Series was and that this should be well planned for in the future. It was talked about combining with other English events to develop some "SERIES" type events for various locations in MT, ID and WA perhaps. There is going to be an awards MEP ceremony next year and this could be part of that. Some sort of way to have overall series winners to promote attend all the scheduled events is a great idea to pursue.

JS 12/2/2015