

**Orinda Horse Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2023  
6:30-8:00 PM via Zoom**

Present: Michael Bowen, Linnea Wren, Tanya Ericson, Carla Scofield, Alix Quay, Erica Braun, Kusia H., Liz Strauss, Heather McHugh

- 1) Call to order at 6:32 pm
- 2) Adoption of Agenda
  - a. Put capital improvements item first on agenda
  - b. Add:
    - i. Other agenda items for EBMUD meeting
    - ii. Spring Dieting Plan
- 3) Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes – Motion made and approved to accept the minutes of the prior meetings.
- 4) Member Comment – None
- 5) Consent Calendar
  - a. Admission to full membership - Liz Strauss and Heather Armstrong were accepted as Proprietary Members, having fulfilled their probation periods.
- 6) Preparation for Annual Grazing Plan Meeting with EBMUD
  - a. Adopt proposed Capital Improvements List for presentation to EBMUD
    - i. The Board discussed capital improvements to propose to EBMUD at the February 24<sup>th</sup> AGP meeting.
    - ii. Capital improvements are projects that contribute to the maintenance of the property as a natural ecosystem and support the rangeland management goals of EBMUD. Projects that are strictly for OHA's use or convenience are unlikely to be approved as capital improvement projects.
    - iii. Projects discussed include:
      1. Replacing aging plumbing infrastructure
      2. Maintenance of boundary fence along Wildcat Canyon Rd., from El Toyonal to San Pablo Dam Rd.
      3. Control of invasive weeds
      4. Fuels management
    - iv. Michael will send the Board an updated draft following this meeting.
  - b. Other agenda items for EBMUD meeting
    - i. Will we get capital improvement credits this year?
    - ii. Will we get Tier III grazing rotation credits this year?
    - iii. How are we doing on AUM use? What's the ideal number of animals from their perspective?
    - iv. When will we get the invoice for the lease payment?
    - v. Who is our assigned ranger going forward?

- vi. Protecting the pasture ecosystem
  - 1. Share OHA's work hour totals
  - 2. Share Richard King's comments about our pastures having amazing diversity of plant life
- vii. Revision of our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation
  - 1. Share how we are strengthening our liability protections so we can safely allow community members to participate in events
- viii. OHA's efforts to be a community organization
  - 1. Membership recruitment
  - 2. Visit by group of at-risk teens
  - 3. Events – Halloween party/parade – broadening our community beyond our current members

#### 7) Rule Revision: Next Steps

- a. The group appointed by the Board (Kusia, Elise and Linnea) has created a survey to gather member input on the creation a process for Rules revision
- b. The Board approved distribution of the survey

#### 8) Herd Size

- a. Several issues have arisen:
  - i. Should OHA recommence accepting new horses into the herd?
  - ii. Is 38 the right number of horse spaces for OHA?
    - 1. At the upcoming meeting with EBMUD, we will discuss historical AUM usage and what the best number of animals is, from EBMUD's perspective.
    - 2. After that input, the Board will discuss at a future meeting whether to re-open admission of new horses, with the exception of the two second horse spaces discussed below.
  - iii. There are Proprietary Members on the second horse space waiting list who were not asked if they wanted a second space before the last new member was interviewed and accepted. OHA rules state that when filling open spaces, the second horse waiting list takes precedence over the admission of new members.
    - 1. The Board voted to offer second horse spaces to the two members who were overlooked prior to the last new member admission.

#### 9) Spring Confinement Planning

- a. Lisa has graciously agreed to coordinate the spring confinement planning. She will begin forthwith, as we expect horses needing to come off the grass in the next few weeks. She will begin by surveying the membership as to which horses are expected to need confinement.

#### 10) Membership Committee - Deferred

#### 11) New Business - Deferred

#### 12) Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm – Meeting will be restricted to discussion of approval of the budget, which needs to occur prior to the dues being collected in March.

13) Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather McHugh*