

**Orinda Horsemen's Association**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 19, 2023**  
**7:00 -8:30 pm via Zoom**

Present: Carla Scofield, Linnea Wren, Erica Braun, Mark Tompkins, Holly Turner, Michael Bowen, Becky Mertens, Kusia Hreshchyshyn, Tanya Ericson, Alix Quay

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

- I. Adoption of Agenda
  - a. Bubs Schaaf was admitted in a prior Board meeting, so her admission was removed. Approval of Gianni as an Associate was added.
  - b. Added items proposed by Holly under Membership Committee.
  - c. Agenda adopted with the above changes.
- II. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - a. Approved
- III. Consent Calendar
  - a. Admission to associate membership – All approved

Monica Haywood	Sponsor: Michael Bowen
Kate Razo	Sponsor: Heather Armstrong
Gianni Benecchi	Sponsor: Erica Braun
- IV. Member Comment - None
- V. Herd Size Review
  - a. There are 32 spaces assigned to Proprietary Members) at this time.
  - b. Three spaces have been offered to Proprietary Members as second horse spaces. The Board is awaiting responses from the members to whom those spaces have been offered.
  - c. Heather asked which problem we are trying to solve with this review? Maximize income? Maintain ideal pasture condition? Increase diversity of membership? Other?
  - d. Linnea stated she sees two factors as the main drivers of herd size determination: Pasture condition and herd dynamics.
  - e. Carla said that the herd seems unsettled right now and suggested that we hold off on adding new horses at this time.
  - f. Michael said we need to provide clear direction to the Membership Committee.
  - g. The Board requests feedback/a recommendation from the Grazing Rotation Committee on the ideal number of horses from the perspective of rangeland management.
  - h. Pending feedback from the Grazing Rotation Committee and monitoring of the herd dynamics, the Board requested that offering of second horse spaces and recruitment of

new members be paused. If any of the three outstanding second horse space offers is declined, those spaces will not be offered to others at this time.

VI. [Planning Grid](#)

- a. April
  - i. Rototill ring – John Fouhy will disc the arena on May 1<sup>st</sup> (weather permitting).
- b. May
  - i. Begin hay order – It is too early to get hay prices or start the ordering process due to the effects of weather on the hay growing season.
  - ii. Mow hemlock(?)
  - iii. Review AGP projects – EBMUD has not yet responded to OHA's capital improvements proposal, so no projects have been started.
  - iv. Fuel reduction to meet county weed abatement deadline of 6/1 (especially Ring Pasture, Red Barn area, Pavilion) – Check with Linda Furtado on the deadline – is it a County deadline or MOFD requirement?
    - 1. We should plan a work party for brush and weed control in the next month or so.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. Treasurer's Report
  - i. Insurance – Premium payment for General Liability insurance was cancelled by Wells Fargo Bank (the bank could not explain why). Linnea switched the payment to the OHA debit card and insurance was reissued. EBMUD received a new Certificate of Insurance.
- b. Legal Committee
  - i. Continuing to work on revising the Rules to reconcile them with the new Bylaws.
- c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee
  - i. Per guidance above, Committee will hold off on filling additional open spaces.
  - ii. Holly proposed posting the new member waiting list and the second horse list on the OHA website. Applicants would be given the option of remaining anonymous.
    - 1. Following discussion, the second horse waiting list would be shown as a number of spaces, rather than listing current member names on the public-facing web pages.
- d. Board Liaison Report – No discussion
- e. EBMUD Liaison Report
  - i. EBMUD removed the trees on the road through the forest.
  - ii. Virginia has returned from medical leave.
  - iii. As noted above, there is no response from EBMUD yet regarding our capital improvements proposal.

- f. Communications Report – No items
  - g. Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding – No discussion
- VIII. New Business – No items
- IX. Executive Session
- X. Next Meeting Date – May 16<sup>th</sup>. For the remainder of this Board year, meetings will be on the third Tuesday of every month from 6:30 – 8:30 pm via Zoom.
- XI. Adjourned at 9:00 pm

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Heather McHugh*