

**Orinda Horse Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2023  
6:30-8:00 PM via Zoom**

Present: Michael Bowen, Linnea Wren, Carla Scofield, Lisa McLaughlin, Mark Tompkins, Holly Turner, Paul Burns, Kusia Hreshchyshyn, Erica Braun, Becky Mertens, Alix Quay, Suzette Curran, Tanya Ericson, Heather McHugh

Meeting called to order at 6:34 pm

- 1) Adoption of Agenda
  - a) Agenda adopted after addition of 8a and 8b.
- 2) Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - a) Minutes adopted
- 3) Member Comment
  - a) Lisa: Solana is insulin resistant and has Cushing's disease and can no longer live on the pasture. Lisa will resign her OHA membership in September.
- 4) Herd Size Determination
  - a) Number of horse spaces has historically been 38.
  - b) The Grazing Rotation Committee recommends an average of 32 horses on the pasture, with the understanding that rarely are all spaces occupied (due to horses off for training, rehab, staying at other places temporarily, vacant spaces, etc.). The Grazing Rotation Cte's proposal is attached to these minutes. It includes strategies for managing the number of horses actively grazing.
  - c) Motion was made and passed to allow 36 horse spaces to be filled.
    - i) Rationale for this number is that in order to maintain an average of 32 on pasture per the Grazing Rotation Cte's recommendation, 36 is a reasonable number. Filling all 38 spaces may result in a higher average number of horses on pasture over time. Herd dynamics, forage availability and winter feeding challenges are also considerations.
    - ii) Based on this vote, the freeze on filling horse spaces is lifted.
    - iii) Membership Committee will provide an update on the filling of the empty spaces at the next meeting.
- 5) Review of proposal addressing membership procedures, record keeping, application process, lists used to prioritize horse space offerings, etc.
  - a) Holly created a proposal for modifying some of our procedures for new memberships and filling open horse spaces.
  - b) After discussion, the Board declined to vote on the proposal, and advised Holly to submit the proposal to the Proprietary Membership phase of the Rules Revision process.
- 6) [Planning Grid](#)
  - a) April-May - Review
    - i) Ring tilling – Scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>. Ring will need to dry after tilling.

- ii) Weed management -Thanks to all members who have dedicated many hours to removing invasive plants!
- iii) Fire Safety – Linda F. has kept the Board informed of communications from MOFD.

7) Committee Updates

a) Treasurer's Report

- i) Expense and Revenue status
  - (1) EBMUD lease bill arrived and was paid. Grazing credits were applied to the amount due.
  - (2) Linnea requested that Heather obtain a copy of last year's lease invoice, as we never received a copy. She would like to have it for historical reference.
  - (3) We are ahead of budget so far this year.

b) Legal Committee

i) Update on Draft Rules

- (1) Kusia and Elise are creating a draft of the rules incorporating the changes required by the new Bylaws. Linnea is formatting it.
- (2) The draft will be circulated for member comment.
- (3) Kusia recommended that member feedback, and discussion about it, be carefully documented so that decisions about whether suggestions are incorporated or not can be supported.

c) Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee - deferred

d) Board Liaison Report - deferred

e) EBMUD Liaison Report - deferred

f) Communications Report - deferred

8) Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding - deferred

9) New Business

- a) Fence Panels – Tanya proposed purchasing 12 new heavy-duty fence panels, at a cost of \$3,000, to repair the USR hay shed enclosure, replace the broken panels in the pavilion, and have some for future repairs. It is less expensive per-panel to order 12 than to purchase a smaller number. The Board requested a proposal in writing with a breakdown of the cost per panel. Heather will ask EBMUD if they plan to grade the road through the Upper Sullivan, and if they could also grade a turn-around
- b) Water Tank – Wakean informed the Board about a free water tank (400-500 gallons). The Board approved obtaining the tank.
- c) Arena Boards – The Board requests that the lumber intended to be used as kickboards in the arena be installed, so that they are not sitting around in a pile as a fire hazard.

10) Executive Session - None

11) Next Meeting Date – June 20, 2023, 6:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm