

**Orinda Horsemen's Association
Annual Meeting Minutes**

**September 29, 2024
2:00 -4:00 pm**

Board members present: Linnea Wren, Alix Quay, Elise Torres, Tanya Ericson, Mark Tompkins

Members present: Cheryl, Holly, Michael Bowen, Lula, Heather, Carrie, Alison, Liz, Suzette, Paul, Erica, Kim, Wakean, Michael Barglow, Sally, Meredith, Sonny, Lisa

Alix opened the meeting 217pm.

1. Year in Review

Alix gave year in review: sharp pipes in pavilion fixed, drainage in some paddocks fixed, beer can saddling area repaired, spring box lid replaced, new padlocks delivered, forage, water, and hay tested testing approved, membership agreement completed revision finalized, window installed in white shed, star thistle, teasel, and other invasive weeds removed, tough shed reorganized, new worming protocol in process. We also got four new gates from EBMUD. Kim mentioned that we saved money on the hay due to the hay supplier she was able to find and that Tanya ordered from. Alix also added a thank you for Kim's work on the window in the White shed and hay rack in the Pavillion.

2. Treasurer Report

Linnea summarized anticipated costs of \$44k in costs. YTD costs just over \$36k. Revenue on track to hit \$44k. This was a good year financially. Even with acquisition of new brass locks we should be under budget for the year. We saved on hay costs significantly. We also saved on rent because EBMUD has continued to give us capital improvement and other credits. (See attachment AnnualMeeting.2023-24 Budget Report.2024-09-29.pdf).

3. Member Discussion

Liz asked what we are going to use the Beer Can structure when it is repaired. Linnea said we'd use it for staging. Kim said that when the Pavillion was built there was discussion of another structure on the property potentially being dismantled. Liz noted that it was originally used as a stall.

Our new EBMUD ranger Jackie is fantastic.

4. Membership Committee Report

Holly provided a membership committee update. Pause on new horses until feeding is complete. We have two open horse slots. One will go directly to an interview. The other will go to the second horse list first and then to new member waiting list.

Cheryl raised a question about the historical membership committee process. General support for reinstating this historical process. This is not in OHA bylaws. Kim was able to provide the job description for this created by Allison in 2008. Elise noted that this would likely be best covered under procedures.

5. Legal Committee Update

Elise said the next task is to collect all the procedures in a single easy to reference document.

Sonny asked if the feeding schedule job rotates. Elise replied that this may be one of the jobs we want to vote on annually.

6. Grazing Management

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Erica acknowledged Eddie, Linnea, Heather, Suzette, and Sylvie for their work on grazing committee. EBMUD and fire department have appreciated us doing earlier grazing in the pear orchard dieting area because it prevented the need for controlled burns. Cheryl asked if we could consider eliminating the rule requiring horses to be in the Pear Orchard. The underlying reason for this rule is that the herd is required for fire management. This is a balancing act that requires a sufficient size herd to keep vegetation under control for fire protection. Mainly the Lower Pear was overgrazed some this year because the dieting group was larger and in the Lower Pear a bit longer than usual. We plan to split herd into fed and unfed in January.

7. General OHA Discussion

Alix recapped general environmental aspects of OHA. Drive slowly. Watch for turtles, snakes, lizards, etc. Respect and be courteous to any hikers and dog walkers moving through OHA. As soon as it gets wet we have to avoid truck feeding to protect the newts and salamanders. EBMUD wants us to minimize driving into pastures. Kim was able to share the driving rule with Alix which says trucks and cars are not to be unattended on the pasture at any time. Dogs should not be around pond at all. (See Attachment PondPasture.Dog Exclusion Perimeter.pdf) Dogs should be on leash everywhere except El Toyonal and from the gate at Longs up to the steep trail onto Seaview.

8. Election of 2024 / 2025 Board Members

Nominations - Kusia, Sylvie, Kim. Candidate forum offered to give candidates three minutes to speak. Sylvie offered to answer questions. Kim asked who had read her email statement and most had so there was no need to re-read it. Lisa asked what a co-op means to each candidate. Sylvie replied that it is a place where everyone's thoughts and concerns are heard equally and treated respectfully. Kim said it meant allowing people having a voice and not getting ghosted. Kim said diversity is about different personalities and skills.

Linnea gave general voting instructions and clarified that this would not be "ranked voting". Two openings. Three candidates. Members should take a paper and two envelopes. On sheet of paper write your two candidate choices. On first envelope write nothing. On second envelope write your name. Two votes were received in mailbox at 123pm.

Voting from 310 to 330.

18 votes submitted. Two were not counted because no name on outer envelope. Results were that Sylvie and Kusia are the new board members. The two uncounted ballots would not have changed the outcome.

9. Membership Agreement

Revised Membership Agreement distributed. Completed, and signed by all members present.

Alix explained that we will be asking everyone to sign a vet release form to keep on site so vets have clear guidance for emergency treatment.

10. Closing Announcements and Acknowledgements

Alix presented an honorary gift to Gary Ingram for his wonderful attitude and all of the work he has done for OHA.

Lisa acknowledged the passing of Cookie, Zephyr, and Fazon.

Liz asked for members to empty water troughs when not in use. Also please don't leave toys in the ring. Don't bypass locks. Don't feed other horses treats.

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Erica announced that Harvey would like help on the teasel patch in the pond bottoms. Liz announced we should prioritize timely teasel removal this season.

Meeting adjourned 345pm.