

Orinda Horse Association

Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2025

5:00 - 6:30 pm

These minutes are intended for the exclusive use of OHA members. Please refrain from sharing this document with non-members.

Meeting called to order by Elise at 5:04 pm.

Board members present: Elise Torres (President), Linnea Wren (Vice President), Sylvie Thome (Treasurer), Kusia Hreshchyshyn (Communications), Mark Tompkins (Secretary), Holly Turner (newly elected)

Members present: Liz Strauss

Announcements: The board will revise the task assignments and pasture assignments sheets and will send them out soon. Members should feel free to email the Board on unanswered emails if they have not received a Board response. It is always fine to ask the Board again if there hasn't been a reply.

REMINDERS TO MEMBERS: If you identify an issue with water supply please contact the pasture manager of the pasture with the problem to lead the repair. Thank you!

WEED MANAGEMENT: October priority is coyote brush and scotch broom. Please coordinate with weed managers.

1. Adoption of Agenda - No changes to agenda. Elise motioned to adopt agenda. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes - Annual meeting minutes prepared but not yet circulated. Holly motioned to approve. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Mark to circulate after meeting.
3. Initial Fiscal Year Meeting
 - a. Election of 2025-26 Officers - Discussion of roles. Elise not interested in being president this term. Mark would consider being president but would need to scale back or stop other OHA roles like hay purchase committee. Kusia would also consider being president with assistance on communication. After discussion nominations for officers are Kusia for President (all in favor, motion carried); Mark for Vice President (all in favor, motion carried); Sylvie for Treasurer (all in favor,

motion carried); Elise for Secretary (all in favor, motion carried) Holly for Communications Lead (all in favor, motion carried)

- b. Review Bylaws and Rules - Kusia read the board officer job descriptions.
- c. Thanks to outgoing Board members - thank you to Linnea!

4. Consent Calendar - no items.

5. Member Comment - Liz asked for clarification on who is allowed to feed. She is a long-time member and is confused. Rules say associate and new proprietary members need to be trained by feeding as the third person in a crew with two trained feeders. She has seen what she thinks have been untrained feeders as part of two-person teams in the past. Last year someone brought a sponsor without training who did a poor job of feeding. She has also heard people asking to feed with a riding partner. Elise agreed that as the rules state there should be at least two trained feeders. Discussion of a proposed message to membership on feeding: Feedings should always include at least two trained feeders with membership status. Guests are not authorized to do feedings. Training must include a new feeder feeding with a crew of two trained feeders once before feeding without two trained feeders.

Liz also asked about vaccination status information regarding Hawkeye. Board feels it would be best for Hawkeye to be on the same rabies schedule (Fall) as the rest of the herd, so Sonny and/or Dennis should get Hawkeye Fall rabies vaccination. Liz also noted that Iskra and Santos need dental checks and flu and rhino. Board will discuss next steps on getting these horses up to date on vaccinations and will let Liz know if further assistance is needed. Message will also include that hay carts and whips should be at Pond Barn by 10/19.

6. Review 2024-25 AGP projects - no updates this meeting

7. Planning Grid (https://orindahorsemen.org/?page_id=14063)

- a. September – follow up
 - i. Member dues were late starting 10/1 - all members should pay ASAP.
 - ii. Renew auto/liab insurance - insurance done.
 - iii. Hay carts and whips to proper pasture - should be in Pond barn before 10/19 (done as of 10/11).
- b. October - current
 - i. Review Pasture Calendar, Rotation Schedule upcoming herd moves dates may be adjusted for pasture conditions
 - 1. 10/19 Through gate, Plateau to Pond
 - ii. Boxes and keys to new officers - boxes for Treasurer and President.
 - iii. File IRS 990N - all set.
 - iv. Send certificate of liability insurance to EBMUD - complete.
 - v. Fall work party - see task assignment section notes.

- vi. Review & update Emergency Contact Tree procedures - Michael Bowen suggests creating a "WhatsApp" group that will be used to communicate in emergencies. Michael agreed to meet with Kusia to develop this in October.
 - vii. Current year budget - Sylvie will provide budget at next meeting.
 - viii. Tabulate work hours, honor those with many - Holly will send message to Heather asking to complete the tally.
 - ix. Pull coyote brush & scotch broom - still quite dry, when the soil gets damp it's time to pull, reference the weeding calendar on the website for current target species for weeding, feed on weeds ([map](#))
 - c. November – look ahead
 - i. No in-hand moves
 - ii. Review Pasture Calendar, Rotation Schedule upcoming herd moves
 - iii. CNGA dues (by Dec 31) - automatic
 - iv. Plan AGP Capital Improvement Projects - still waiting for EBMUD to finalize AGP
 - v. Continue feed on weeds ([map](#))
8. Task List Assignments, Pasture Teams - Board to work on assignments off line and then circulate to members via email.
9. Rules Revision
- a. Overall Status - Linnea to take on management of this project.
 - b. OHA CULTURE, VALUES, AND BEHAVIORS, OHA DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES: Board will vote on the adoption of this rule revision over email and will notify members of the result and make a note in the next Board minutes.
10. Worming - no discussion.
11. Committee Updates
- a. Treasurer's Report - no report.
 - b. Legal Committee - no report.
 - c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee - Heather McHugh willing to take over membership committee chair. Board supports this change. Holly to replace Mark as board liaison to this committee.
 - d. Board Liaison Report - no report.
 - e. EBMUD Liaison Report - no report.
 - f. Communications Report - no report.
 - g. Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding - no report.
12. New Business - no new business.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29pm. Entered executive session.

13. Executive Session

Discussion of member issues. Adjourned at 7:14pm.

14. Next Meeting - Wednesday 11/5 at 6-7:30