

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

**August 21, 2024
6:30 -8:00 pm via Zoom**

Board members present: Alix Quay, President; Elise Torres, Vice-President; Mark Tompkins, Secretary; Linnea Wren, Treasurer; Tanya Ericson, Maintenance Coordinator

Members present: Lisa McLaughlin, Liz Strauss, Kusia Hreshchyshyn

Alix called the meeting to order at 641pm

1. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted.

2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mark needs to change the date and circulate as corrected. Board motioned to approve previous meeting minutes contingent upon date correction. Previous minutes adopted. Mark to send out revised minutes after this meeting.

3. Consent Calendar

Elise motioned to approve Sally as an honorary member. Tanya seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Member Comment

Lisa McLaughlin: Summarized the partial "phased" herd move from the Pear Orchard. There was discussion about needing at least five horses in each move group. The first group (pioneer group) of horses was a bit unsettled when moved away from the herd. Lisa thinks flexibility in herd move rules is a good thing and even though the last phased herd move wasn't perfect, it is worth refining and continuing to improve. Lisa offered to draft some "phased" herd move guidelines. Board expressed gratitude and that they would review guidelines from Lisa.

Liz Strauss: Noted that it is time for announcements to go out again. Also asked about including information on the hay order / delivery to include in the announcements. Specifically, how many bales are available for member purchase. Liz also asked for advice on doing the O'Brien dental clinic. There is more demand for dental service than can be handled in one day. It probably makes the most sense to wait until we have a count on the number of horses that won't be accommodated on the first day and then determine if we need a second clinic immediately or can delay until the Spring or sometime in between the Fall and Spring clinics.

5. Review AGP projects

- a. *Beer Can structure – needs a new roof. This will require at least two work parties. AGP specified fixing a support post.*
- b. *Upper Sullivan, Pond trough water supply – approved in AGP. Gary will get a work group together for this after horses move out of Upper Sullivan.*

6. Springbox lid improvement / repair

- a. *Michael Bowen planning to fix this lid.*

7. Planning Grid

a. *AUGUST*

- i. *Review Pasture Calendar upcoming herd moves. None upcoming in August.*

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- ii. *Set annual mtg; notify members. The annual meeting is normally held on a Sunday. We need to identify a location. Discussed meeting at OHA like we did last year. COVID risk is very high right now, so it may be difficult to share food at the annual meeting. Elise suggested picking an off meal time like 2-4pm. Discussion of asking members to sign the new membership agreement at the annual meeting – Linnea indicated that Kusia may be interested in helping us make this a festive activity to engage all members in joining together in their commitment to OHA. Liz Strauss suggested including a year in review discussion. Alix suggested asking members to summarize what they think went well and should be continued next year and what didn't go well and should be changed. Board proposed either September 22 or September 29 and offering a morning and afternoon block on each day. Tanya asked if meeting attendance is required for all members. Elise said it is recommended, but if you can't make it you have to figure out a proxy vote. Linnea noted that we also have to establish a voting process and a way to get the slate of candidates prepared in time for the annual meeting. There will also be a brief summary of OHA financials. Board will send out email with poll for dates and other annual meeting information.*

- iii. *Pulling yellow star thistle is complete.*

b. SEPTEMBER

- i. *Review Pasture Calendar upcoming herd moves*
 - 1. *Sept 1 - From Upper Sull to Forest*
 - 2. *Sept 8 - Open Forest-Middle Meadow gate*
 - 3. *Sept 15 - From Forest-Middle Meadow to Plateau*
- ii. *All members dues on 9/15, late on 10/1*
- iii. *Renew Auto & Liability insurance – these policies are now in hand.*
- iv. *Hay carts and whips to proper pasture. Carts are in the Upper Sullivan.*

8. Feeding Schedule

In process.

9. Worming

Board will advise Alison that she can proceed with the fecal testing and worming protocol.

10. Padlocks

Members have expressed great interest in OHA purchasing brass padlocks. Linnea confirmed we have the budget available to do the brass locks. Linnea moved to buy all new brass padlocks. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Discussion between Board and Liz Strauss about how many keys to make.

11. Committee Updates

a. Treasurer's Report

About \$3000 under projected expenses YTD.

b. Legal Committee

Rideable horse clause – Linnea noted that this was discussed in the rule revision process, but the wording ended up as a requirement that horses are in good health and fit to live on pasture. A person can be deeply involved with their horse in an equestrian pursuit that isn't riding (carriage, liberty, etc.). This rule is for incoming members. Tanya thinks it is important that horses are fit for riding because one of the main goals of OHA was to foster riding. Elise clarified that this issue currently only applies to new member applicants proposing to bring in a new horse. Tanya also noted that her main concern is untrained horses not respecting fences and damaging OHA property. Discussion that we should also consider requiring that horse is handleable by more than just the owner. Liz also noted that we should consider not bringing in new horses that are

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retired. Elise suggested tabling this issue until after a new board is elected. Alix asked if legal committee could look into this and report to next board on issues that can arise and offer guidance on solving. The Board will look at and discuss rule I.E.4.a.iv: "Applicant's horse(s) must be in good health, be able to maintain good health primarily on pasture, and must not be likely to be consistently destructive to OHA pasture facilities or a threat to the health or safety of other horses or humans" and offer guidance to the next Board.

Elise suggested that current requests to be added to the Legal Committee should be considered and voted on by the new Board.

- c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee
Committee is interviewing. Discussion of pausing on admitting new horses until the end of feeding (typically February). Linnea motioned to pause adding new horses (for existing and new members) to the herd until feeding season is complete. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried. Board will let membership committee know and will send out an email announcement with this decision.

- d. Board Liaison Report
Tabled

- e. EBMUD Liaison Report
Tabled

- f. Communications Report
Tabled

- g. Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding
Tabled

12. New Business

Addressing member concern about Board action on stallion behavior. Board will provide information in an email on actions taken since concerns about stallion behavior were raised.

Public session closed at 754pm. Executive session opened at 754pm.

13. Executive Session

Discussion of member topics.

14. Next Meeting

- a. Agenda: *TBD*
- b. Date: *September 17 from 630-8pm*

Meeting adjourned at 830pm.