

Online Meeting Information

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8648470903?pwd=czBPZkE3WjFjZUxMUUhUzhyQXlhQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 847 0903

Passcode: G03M7P

One tap mobile: +16699009128,,8648470903#,,,,*070761# US (San Jose)

Orinda Horse Association

Board Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

Zoom Link [Board Meeting Zoom](#)

OHA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 5:30 – 7:00 pm

1. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. Additions:
 - i. Officer Job Descriptions and name correction with IRS
 - ii. Pavilion hay storage shed doors - are included in the list of proposed projects for discussion and will be discussed within AGP item #6
 - iii. Tuff shed bins - add to Rules revision report, item #9
 - b. Kusia moved to adopt with additions: Holly second, motion carried
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a. Kusia moved to adopt: Mark second, motion carried
3. Appreciations / Accomplishments
 - a. Kim for cleaning White shed (red barn storage area shed).
 - b. Everyone who came to work party; lots of invasives and weeds were removed
 - c. Wakean for mowing in FM
4. Consent Calendar
 - a. none
5. Member Comment
 - a. none
6. 2025-26 Projects (ends at the end of Sept. 2026)
 - a. AGP status - AGP meeting scheduled for May 21st
 - i. Aim for \$3,700 in credits
 - ii. 2 pieces of cross fence (MM & Plateau) are clear to include
 - iii. Jackie gave feedback to aim for close to the amount of credits
 - iv. Some items still need cost estimates: working on estimates for 2-3 new troughs (U. Sull. & Plateau & FM)
 - v. MM pump replacement labor- got pre-approval so definitely include
 - vi. Some items on list are just things to ask EBMUD for permission for, not for reimbursement for: Ex. LL hay shed
 - vii. Pavilion hay storage shed doors: AGP committee doesn't think EBMUD will approve
 - viii. Lease cost has gone up a lot because cattle prices have increased
 - ix. AGP committee says they won't give labor credit retroactively.

- x. Discussion of including LL cross fence but decided it's better for the following year because need to wait till winter to clear poison oak and coyote brush (to avoid nesting season, November - end of February)
 - xi. Board will rank projects on list
7. Planning Grid (https://orindahorsemen.org/?page_id=14063)
- a. April – *follow-up*
 - i. 4/11-12 In-hand, Upper Sullivan to Lower Pasture, point person: Michael Bowen
 - ii. 4/25-26 In-hand, Lower Pasture to Plateau, point person: Heather Armstrong
 - iii. Incorporating a flexible herd move strategy for in-hand herd moves is an iterative process. Debriefing after these moves has provided important information about how to improve them and tailor them to our members' and horses' needs.
 - iv. Learning points from the April flexible moves, compiled from discussions with the members who helped organize these two moves and the Board. The following guidelines are a work in progress:
 1. Coordinator of the in-hand herd move must use the spreadsheet template that has been developed to make these moves successful.
 2. Pioneer and Final moves should have set times. This set time ideally does not change without substantial notice to the members involved in them.
 3. Coordinator of the in-hand herd move should identify the leads who are committed to be physically present to conduct the pioneer and final moves. Those leads are also committed to moving their horses at that time.
 4. Pioneer group should have a minimum of 6 horses. Final group should have a minimum of 8 horses. These numbers have some flexibility and are dependent on the judgment of the coordinator to create groups that ensure the pioneer and final moves are stable, strong groups of moving horses. The goal is to ensure safety, reduce stress on horses who might panic about their herdmates leaving, and reduce stress on members.
 5. Flexible herd moves should span 2 days maximum.
 6. Coordinator of the in-hand herd move should communicate the plan for the move to membership and the Board.
 7. Coordinator should confirm from the pasture manager that the target pasture is ready for incoming horses; this report to be sent to Board and business.
 8. A communication from the coordinator of the progress of the move, including when the pioneer and final groups have arrived, with a final count of horses confirming all expected herd members are in the new pasture.
 9. Stress that these bullet points are not set in stone. They are guidelines, and they continue to be refined. The ultimate success of a move is whether it worked well for the specific members and horses under the variable conditions of any given in-hand herd move.
 - v. Rototilling of arena completed 4/17/26 - only 3" of dirt remaining, will need several weeks to dry
 1. Will discuss current status with EBMUD at AGP meeting
 2. Still wet after 5/4-5/26 rain
 - vi. Wormers distributed prior to 4/25-4/26 in-hand move - REMINDER TO WORM YOUR HORSES IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY
 - b. May – *current*
 - i. Review Pasture Calendar upcoming herd moves

1. 5/30-31 Thru gate, Plateau to FM/MM - Erica will conduct this move
 - ii. Begin hay order
 1. Teresa shared the results from her research so far; some vendors don't have prices yet
 2. Hard to find delivery, will keep discussions going
 3. Currently looking for 520-560 bales (including some to sell to members like last year)
 4. Have discussed testing the hay with some vendors. We have the funds to test 2-3 vendors
 5. Teresa will give Board an update in 2 weeks
 - iii. Weeding
 1. Mow hemlock
 2. Pull, cut flower heads, Milk Thistle
 - iv. Fuel reduction to meet county weed abatement deadline of 6/1.
 1. Esp. Ring Pasture, Red Barn area, Pavilion
 - c. June – *look-ahead*
 - i. Upcoming herd moves
 1. 6/4 Through gate: Forest Meadow to Middle Meadow (5 days, 6/4-6/8)
 2. 6/9 In-hand Middle Meadow to Pear Orchard
 3. 6/30 In-hand Pear Orchard to Lower Lower
 - ii. Continue hay order
 - iii. Review insurance policies
 - iv. Weeding - teasel when first blooms begin - second or third week of June
8. Fly Predators - ongoing, Alix's update:
- a. Alix put a bunch in the Plateau yesterday and is about to spread what is left around the red barn and maybe a little in the forest.
 - b. The next shipment will be around the end of May and I believe we will be moving to the Forest then, depending so I can put more there then.
 - c. We get our free bag in June so Alix will have more then to distribute as our shipment will be twice as large.
 - d. The weather is not great for hatching the predators but we have no control of that.
 - e. The fly bait making is a smelly and four day event so Alix is waiting for warmer days to do it.
9. Rules Revision
- a. update:

Work Hours Rules and Procedures		30 day Membership Review ended 4/25/26
Revocation Section VII. E	Board	30 day Membership Review ends 5/8/26 - See notes below
Arena	Elise, Mark, Sylvie	30 day Membership Review ends 5/9/26
Use of Stalls, Paddocks and Ring Pasture	Holly	Member feedback. Good place to weigh in on # of cans

		per member/horse
Changes of Horses	Kusia, Elise, Linnea	Initial draft is being developed
Procedure for Managing Manure at OHA	Kusia, Paul, Nichole	Initial draft
Horse Health Care	Holly, Kusia, Linnea	Initial draft
Membership Procedures	Holly, Membership Committee	Initial draft
Herd Feeding	Michael Bowen	Initial draft
Honorary Membership		Pending
Safety		Pending
Dogs		Pending
Trailers		Pending

- Revocation of lease rule (Section VII. E) is still being considered given member feedback.
- Holly noted that the 12 months out of 24 rule is difficult to administer and enforce for the membership committee. Significant administrative burden for the membership committee to manage.
- Kusia appreciates the helpful and constructive feedback from members. Member comments prompted the legal committee to check with outside counsel who said the lease provision isn't necessarily a violation of CA law. However, it still creates significant administrative burden, concerns with it tying up a space and enabling absentee memberships.
- Kusia asked if a lease has been used to enable 2nd horses to come in pending a space.
- Linnea shared Alix's recent comment about potentially using the lease option for a short period but ultimately she didn't need to.
- Erica noted when she was on the second horse list, there was 1 open space but Erica hadn't had her 2nd space opened yet so did a short term lease until 2nd space was available, 1-2 months, into a space that was known to be opening up.
- Kusia noted it is nice to have some flexibility if a 2nd horse space is known to open up soon but not on the hypothetical that a spot may open
- Holly noted lease is better utilized on a short term basis
- Erica noted the lease should be tied to a vacant space, but need rule that prevents people from using the lease to hold a horse space/ use it for not your horse
- Holly noted there is flexibility in the current rule to give new members 6 months to fill a space and existing members 1 year to fill the space.
- Kusia summarized use of the rule in years hasn't been used as suggested in comments for short term flexibility or by a new member with two horses, or unforeseen circumstances, and there are no known upcoming desires to lease a space. Kusia proposes voting to repeal the

lease provision after the May 8 review period ends and then consider adding something to the rules to give some short term flexibility tied to an expected vacancy.

10. Committee Updates

a. Treasurer's Report

- i. Lease was higher than expected (up 40% from last year mainly due to price per AUM increase) but some budgeted replacement costs are coming in lower than projected (LL hay shed was less than expected)
- ii. Hay is projected to be lower or the same as last year
- iii. Sylvie thinks we will be able to absorb the new lease increase without raising dues at this point and still keep a reserve of 1 year of operating costs (we've been rolling this over) because of the dues increase in 2023 and the build up of a reserve
- iv. California statement of information needs to be filed - add to treasurer job responsibility
- v. Erica noted grass testing costs have gone up from ~\$70 to 87

b. Legal Committee

- i. Despite filing paperwork the IRS still has an incorrect name for OHA on file. Outside counsel said she can help us with this. Board agreed to enlist her assistance.

c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee

d. EBMUD Liaison Report

e. Communications Report

f. Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding/Rotation Committee Report

11. New Business

12. Announcements:

13. Executive Session: Started at 7:04, ended 7:27

14. Next Meeting

a. Agenda

b. Date: 6/2/26: 5:30-7pm