

Orinda Horse Association

Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2025

6:00 - 7:30 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 Linnea at 6:02 pm.

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

Members present: Erica, Alix

Announcements: Members should review task list and work on their tasks, particularly as we are approaching the last quarter of the fiscal year. 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.

REMINDER TO MEMBERS: Please pull fiddleneck, coyote brush, and scotch broom. Thank you!

1. Adoption of Agenda - Added information about Suzette's associate membership application to committee updates. Elise moved to adopt agenda. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes - May 6. Elise motioned to adopt previous meeting minutes. Mark seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. Consent Calendar - Nothing on consent calendar.
4. Appreciation - Kusia thanked everyone who helped with the emergency preparedness work. Elise seconded. Great progress was made and we met the deadline.
5. Member Comment - no member comment.
6. 2024 - 2025 Projects
 - a. AGP - Linnea shared current draft that Erica, Eddie, Heather McHugh, and Linnea have worked on. The draft thanks EBMUD and includes plenty of projects to meet our reimbursement threshold. It also includes a relatively long list of

potential projects that have been of interest and/or considered in the past. These are not being proposed for this AGP. Proposed projects are rotational grazing, cross-fence repair, Beer Can structure. Erica noted that the cross-fence item includes replacing sections. Kusia asked if we usually get the maximum credit from EBMUD and both Erica and Linnea said that we typically do get the full credit.

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

a. May – *follow-up*

- i. Review Pasture Calendar upcoming herd moves
 1. 5/3-4 In-hand, Lower Sullivan to Plateau. Successful move.
 2. 5/30-6/1 In-hand, Middle Meadow to Pear Orchard. Completed in two groups. Management of logistics was very challenging.
- ii. Hay order
 1. Hay Survey - distributed to members in May. Most members completed it in May and results are available for all to review (link: [HaySurvey.2025.ResultsCopy.Analysis.xlsx](#)). The majority vote (two thirds of members) was for mixed grass and alfalfa. Regarding start of feeding - 59% of members want to start at normal time. Therefore feeding for 2025/2026 will start at the same time as last year and use the same grass / alfalfa mix. Current expectation is that we will start feeding on September 14. An earlier start to feeding could be possible depending on pasture conditions but this won't be determined until middle of July. If available forage doesn't look plentiful or adequate in nutritional value (this could happen if weather gets really hot and dry) later this summer we may need to do an additional hay purchase. We will have a grass test in early September that we expect will help inform understanding of nutritional value of forage in the future.

b. June – *current*

- i. Pasture calendar and herd moves. Next move is in-hand from Pear to Lower June 28-29. Sylvie recommended having three options based on difficulties with two times during most recent move. Alix suggested that everyone catch horses at the same time. Linnea noted that the practice used to be that all members would meet at the gate with halters ready. Erica suggested we authorize two move times (set the time as meeting at the gate with halters) and each includes an option to walk or ride, with riders get their horses one hour before the walkers meet. Linnea offered to organize this move.
- ii. Continue hay order. We should order extra hay similar to last year's purchase - Linnea estimated that this was approximately 40 bales. Before ordering we should get a final estimate of how many bales / tons to order and where to place them (Erica can provide locations).
- iii. Review insurance policies. Insurance due this month.

c. July - *look ahead*

- i. Pasture calendar and moves: 7/9/25 through gate from Lower to Beer Can. 7/16 through gate from Beer Can to Lower Sullivan. 7/19-20 in hand Lower Sullivan to Pond.
 - ii. Begin feeding schedule. May want to consider a new feeding scheduling solution.
 - iii. Complete hay order.
 - iv. Members should review task list and work on tasks ASAP.
 - v. Review insurance policies
- 8. Herd Move Notification - Sylvie talked with a member who did not get the email messages about the last herd move and therefore was not present for the last move. Having a texting option may have helped. Board to evaluate options and revisit.
- 9. Fly Predators - Alix is assigned the Fly Control task this year (link: [OHA Tasks 2024-25](#)). Alix said this is going good so far. We have lots of reusable traps and unused traps. Fly predators are coming in - Alix has already put out 30,000 predator larvae and more will be put out in the coming months. We have a three month supply of bait mix. All is well on the fly predator front.
- 10. Emergency Preparedness - hold over from last meeting. No new information.
- 11. Rules Revision - Board needs to review several rule drafts ASAP, including member procedures, work hours, pavilion and red barn stalls, arena areas, vehicles and trailers, and use of stalls (see below). Also need to determine if we want outside counsel input on dispute resolution in the rules revisions. Revisions require a 30 day review. Originally targeted to release for member review in May-June and adoption in July, but there's not enough time now to meet that target.
 - a. Horse Health Care (add BCS requirement) Status - almost ready for Board review. Need to determine if we want BCS tied to Fall vet clinic BCS. This revision will also include a quarantine rule update. Holly, Kusia, Linnea
 - b. Use of Stalls, Paddocks and Ring Pasture at Board review Holly
 - c. Work Hours Rules and Procedures at Board review Heather M
 - d. Vehicles&Trailers at Board review
 - Heather A
 - e. Heather A, Elise
 - f. Membership at Board review Holly,
 - Membership Committee
 - g. Arena at Board review Elise
 - h. Herd Feeding at Board review
 - Michael
 - i. Dispute Resolution ready for final review
- 12. Committee Updates
 - a. Treasurer - Executive key at bank - Elise and Sylvie successfully changed key executive to current board. Also determined to prevent loss of access there should be 2 key executives and 2 signer/card holders This will change every time

new board is elected, should be added to task list for every new board in the future. Elise and Sylvie are new key executives and Sylvie and Linnea are signers and card holders. Kusia suggested that this should go in the job descriptions for board members.

- b. Legal Committee - no report.
- c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee - Linnea noted that we accepted Suzette's membership application in the April board meeting, pending Suzette's reimbursement of the skid steer cost. Board also agreed to rectify cost of Associate vs Proprietary membership. Sylvie will consult with Holly to finalize balances owed regarding Suzette's current membership status.

New proprietary member Justin now planning to bring his horses into OHA in the late summer. The board advises that this occur at least four weeks before feeding begins.

- d. Board Liaison Report - no report. Unclear what this role was and there is currently no board liaison, but Alix described a role similar to Kusia's communication role on the current board.
- e. EBMUD Liaison Report - no report.
- f. Communications Report - no report.
- g. Pasture Reports / Herd Feeding - no report.

13. New Business: No new business.

14. Notifications:

- a. Continue pulling fiddleneck.
- b. [OHA Tasks 2024-25](#), Pasture Teams. There have been some changes to both, with membership changes. Please take time to review your task assignment, and connect with your pasture team lead. As always, if members have any questions or concerns regarding task assignments and pasture team assignments, please reach out to the Board.
- c. Release and Waiver of Liability- [Link to Waiver](#) with a reiteration of our procedures for filing the waiver with the Board Secretary, which then gets stored on the shared drive and recorded in a spreadsheet. (Let's consider if a google form where waivers can be uploaded, which will automatically create a tracking spreadsheet, would be a worthwhile improvement to our current system.)
- d. There are still a few [Membership Agreements](#) that have not been submitted. Carla will be reaching out to those individuals to collect signed agreements.
- e. Although the Board strives to respond to emails promptly, if there are outstanding questions you have brought to the Board but have not received an email response and still need one, please feel free to reach out to us again. If a topic might benefit from a longer discussion, time can be set aside during the Board meeting to give it more attention.

15. Next Meeting

- a. Agenda - items deferred from this meeting will go on to the next meeting's agenda.
- b. Date - Tuesday July 8, 2025 at 6pm.

Regular meeting adjourned at 741pm.

16. Executive Session - No Executive Session.