

Orinda Horse Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2025

3:00 - 5:00 pm

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

Board Members in Attendance: Elise Torres, Mark Tompkins, Sylvie Thome, Linnea Wren

Attendees: Holly Turner, Lisa McLaughlin, Michael Barglow, Michael Bowen, Tanya Ericson, Alix Quay, Kim Zvik, Meredith Nielsen, Harvey Smith, Sonny Wesley, Paul Burns, Dennis Mitchell, Caroline Williams, Lila, Joy Solis-Perry, Teresa Priestley

Elise called to order 335pm.

Elise welcomed new members.

Elise gave a summary of accomplishments. Beer can building fix. Weeding. Existential crisis that we weathered and came out stronger with a better relationship with EBMUD.

Sylvie gave treasurer's report. Budget in good shape. Came into this year with a surplus and maintained it into this year. No expectation of increased dues in 2026. Thanks to members getting in receipts.

Linnea gave EBMUD update. Two elements - AGP and grazing plan. We worked with EBMUD on AGP and AUM. We have 398 AUM and that sets our lease price. We are confirming our total area by reevaluation of "dairy" addition in the past and doing a fenceline walk with Jackie. Our lease will have to be renewed in October 2027. Our proposed AGP projects for 2024-25 were electric fencing, continued Beer Can structure work, invasive weed controls. The work hours we put into the Beer Can Structure was more than our maximum allowed credit for 2024-25. Very likely we'll be able to carry over those work hours to earn credit in 2025-26. We asked for water projects but EBMUD can't make water changes until some state water planning is done.

Linnea distributed and discussed the grazing rotation plan for the coming year. This year we plan to give the plateau pasture more rest time.

Holly gave membership committee update. Review recent email from Holly for details. We have great new associates Caroline, Joy, and Dennis. We also have new proprietary members Teresa and Justin who are working out details of bringing in horses. Current status of herd size. We have a total of 36 slots. The Rotation Team has reviewed current pasture conditions, and now

recommends fewer than 36. Currently 35 spaces are filled, so we are on pause for new proprietary spaces. If spaces open up due to members giving up their spaces, the Rotation Team would like to reassess at that time, and may recommend not filling those spaces for the time being.

Holly also presented two potential t-shirt designs. Tanya asked if we can still add more designs - Holly said maybe.

Sylvie gave rotation committee report. Erica is suggesting longer rest time for lower pear. Also planning a herd split at the time dieters are splitting off - this will depend on horse and pasture conditions. We are also planning to do more tar weed control in the coming year. Let the Board know if you want to contribute funds for an electric mower. Tanya mentioned that Gary may have access to a rental electric mower. Also considering goats - the Goats R Us folks may consider cutting us a deal on winter goat use.

Michael gave a safety update. June 1 is always the deadline for fire preparedness. This year we accomplished a lot of clearing and limbing. Also lots of oak work on El Toyonal - the board facilitated getting EBMUD to facilitate this work. There has been historical tension between EBMUD and fire district. This year we helped improve this dynamic. We also refreshed fire extinguishers. Michael also thanked Liz for updating all the locks - this has made access much more reliable.

Election: candidate statements. Holly sent an email with her statement and summarized her excitement to be on the board and share. Mark gave a brief candidate statement. Elise also shared her statement. Heather McHugh is also a candidate but had a migraine - Michael Bowen gave her a strong recommendation.

Voting.

No task list update.

Holly gave pavillion procedure update. It has been more tidy this year. Manure must be removed from stalls to Taj. Instead of throwing manure add to wheelbarrow and take to Taj if you fill the wheelbarrow. Stalls are in better shape. Some additional drainage work to come. Kusia will be implementing a stall use form with a QR code. Use this form anytime your horses will be off pasture.

Linnea updated on email policy. We need to comply with all regulations around harassment and civility. Remember emails can get forwarded. Please limit reply to all only when all members need to know.

Member forum: Tanya asked members to contact her ASAP if wheelbarrows break.

Kim is happy to answer any questions about Cookie. Her new horse Reyzan will meet herd on 10/4 and go into herd 10/8. Hopeful for a more peaceful winter.

Harvey hopes we can figure out using goats for teasel and noted that Marin national park has pallets we could get and he would work with someone with a truck to get them. Board will discuss at next meeting. We do need a dump run and manure run to reduce accumulation at the Taj.

Linnea noted that a truck task could be to take the Lower Lower outside hay stack to red barn.

Michael noted that current board had been successful getting infrastructure projects moved forward and asked if we could develop a five-ish year capital improvement plan - Elise agreed this is a good idea. Sonny has asked about setting an emergency evacuation team on horseback to speed up emergency moves. Michael added that there are four approaches OHA has used: trailers, horseback, cut the fences, using panels to route the horses across el Toyonal. We don't have consensus on approach so we have an issue. If a fire occurs at the bottom of the hill we'll have about 15 minutes to evacuate. Holly added that we may need alternative responses with timelines practical for the type of fire emergency. Kim added she was here for fire move in 2008 and the biggest problem was disagreement between members so we need plans for different emergency scenarios. Alix likes Sonny's idea of practicing emergency evacuations. Elise said we need to strengthen committee and get to scenarios and practice drills. We may also want to consider fire plans from other large horse herd operations. Paul thinks we need a committee to develop scenarios and plans and then do practice drills. Tanya said Linda used to do an annual update in the fire plan. Michael will email members to help with this committee. Michael Barglow suggested we ask for volunteers and the following people volunteered: Dennis, Tanya, Sonny, Paul, Holly.

Request to sign membership agreements.

Election results are Holly, Mark, and Elise for the three open board seats.

Elise adjourned the meeting 459pm.