MINUTES OHA Board Meeting

August 11, 2020 9:00 AM Via ZOOM

OHA Annual Meeting Sunday 9/13, 11 AM via Zoom (NOTE TIME CHANGE) with Board nominations beforehand, voting by USPS ballot.

Present: Wakean MacLean, Michael Bowen, Marina Pugliese-Moretti, Kate Razo, Eddie Reiter, Sally Weare, Alix Quay, Michael Barglow (Guest), Liz Strauss (Guest).

1.  Meeting called to order at ~9:10am via Zoom.

2. Agenda approved  with addition of consideration Megan’s full membership

3. July minutes approved for posting.

4. (agenda includes no title)

a. Consent Calendar - No items placed on the consent calendar - No action.

b. Planning grid items

The move to Upper Sullivan was successful.

Feeding will begin 9.21.20 to ~mid-February

Hay is ordered (80-20 grass alfalfa mix @ $20.50/bale). Volunteers needed this Thursday and Friday to move the 448 bales into position. Wrapping planned for that Friday.

Sign Up for feeding should begin August 24. Members encouraged to read instructions carefully and prepare to select preferred dates.

The OHA Annual Meeting will be held Sunday September 13, 2020 at 11:00 A.M.   via Zoom due to the pandemic. A meeting package is being prepared and will soon be circulated to help members prepare. The package will include (with items to return by 9/6)

               - status  of 2019-20 capital improvements and survey for suggestions for 2020-21

               - survey of member interest in serving on OHA Board , or specific nominations in advance of annual meeting

               -explanation of voting process for  new Board (secret mail-in ballot ) w/ delayed results

 -- an OHA Feedback and Self-assessment form

DRAFT: Voting for the new 20-21 OHA Board:  Only full Proprietary Members can vote, with one vote per household.  Voting will be by US Mail.  Since there are two continuing Board members (Sally, Michael), each OHA member can vote for five new Board members.

     — Write the 5 nominees that you want to vote for on a slip of paper.  Enclose in small envelope and seal.

     — Put small envelope in a larger envelope.  SIGN the larger envelope (leave the small envelope unsigned for anonymity)

     — mail to PO Box 904, Orinda, CA  94563  BY  SEPTEMBER ??

c. Insurance Update

The board purchased a one year "Tail Policy" from Atain Co.  to cover any claims made (for incidents during the policy period) for up to 12 months after it expired  June 28. The current quote for D&O has lapsed, but the board is determining if it can be extended. The General Liability policy remains in effect until Oct. 1, 2020 with Great American, and the board is interviewing a new broker of record to carry both policies under one roof in order to ensure better oversight of coverage.

 d. EBMUD liaison report-

WM reported that the prior water leak was repaired and the trench filled enabling hay delivery to the Red Barn. However, a new leak has sprung. It is unclear when EBMUD will repair. Members urged to read Erica Braun's email re Teasel and spend some time attempting to control this weed in the near future.

A significant discussion followed regarding capital improvements, including the need to increase weeding on the pasture. Hemlock, thistle, tarweed and teasel are in abundance and can quickly take over and reduce available forage if not controlled. (NOTE: Under terms of OHA's lease, OHA receives a lease discount of up to 50% of lease for approved Capital Improvements (CI) under Annual Grazing Plan (AGP). Capital Improvements mean projects that improve the watershed management, and often include weed mowing, facilities improvements, etc.

5.Member comment

Liz Straus asked if the OHA insurance policies cover members against litigation by fellow members. MB responded that they do not. WM responded that EBMUD/OHA release of liability form may be relevant.

6. Membership issues

Lisa McLaughlin has been added to the top of list for reentry by prior members in good standing. She has offered to be available to consult on rule revision if and when the board takes this up.

Megan Holmes was approved as a Proprietary member. Discussion about whether new members    need to have their horse on pasture for 1 year or just need to have been a probationary member for 1 year  was noted as a rule or procedure  that needs clarified

Rachel Zak has been interviewed and approved as an Associate Member for Larry Hunt.

New associate members Bill, Julie and Caroline have been reminded about rules prohibiting Associate members from inviting guests onto pasture.

 Website transfer issues?  Eddie will check with Linnea and Allison about status of SSL

 Membership co-ordinator report ..new recruitments?  Sarah sent report. Board voted unanimously to ask her to follow process to fill two vacant slots.

 Self-evaluation reports,  recruitng  discussion – Send comments to Kate

Report from 'spring grazing issues' subcommittee ..No recent meeting, but there will be before 9/13. Erica has several grazing rotations with longer and shorter stays in Pond, Plateau and other pastures.

  -assoc members --arbitration agreement?   Update  --no discussion

7.Treasurers report  -Kate  has received annual financial reports from Morris for 2013-2018. In these years, there was an average $383 surplus. As of 5/2020, OHA was ahead $8000 (however, hay will be big expense). Expenses for 2019/2020 will be about $29,000.

So usually, OHA seems to be about breaking even. It has a savings account balance of $10,000. Kate recommends a savings approximately equal to annual expenses, or about $29,000.

Kate recommends dues increases (in stages) to: Riding Partner $250/year + 10 work hours

 Associate Member: $500/year + 20 work hours

 Prop. Member: $1000/year + 30 work hours

Currently, OHA has 30 Prop. Members, 12 Associate Members and 2 Riding Partners (but this will be more accurate after the dues payments of 9/15).

Discussion followed about these dues. Moraga Horsemen is small but only charges $45/month, does not provide hay. Redwood Rangers charges $1000/year (and has funds for projects, hires outside workers for heavy jobs). It was decided not to take any action at this time, since the next dues payment is so soon that no change could be made before then. A dues adjustment in October or November would have more information from final financial report for this year (ends October 1). Board would like input from members.

Kate is still finding out from Diane about deposits and outstanding bills owed, including refunds to members. Kate still has 2 keys to the mailbox – one should go to another Board member, but will do this after 9/13. The bank account at Wells Fargo also needs updated owner/authorized signatures, and that will be done when the new Board comes in.

8.Other business

-Rules/Procedures Committee  update proposal---First project is just to update incorrect and ambiguous rules. Eddie will put up a GoogleDoc of the rules for comment. Carla as professional editor, Elise T. and Kusia as lawyers, Board members, and other volunteers will comment. Kate suggests a hard-copy “welcome packet” for new members that includes the rules.

-emergency webinar -another re-play?   Recording of webinar was not good; ask Anna et al to re-do and re-record.

9. Next meeting: Sunday 9/6, 11 AM, with Annual Meeting via Zoom on Sunday 9/13 at 11 AM

10. "thank You"s – Too many to list!

 Teresa for organizing tarps

 Wakean, Doug and Sally for going to help Elise after her riding accident in Briones

 Doug for doing the hay purchase; Doug and Erica for planning hay distribution

 New Associate Member Bill Whitlock for various fence and hay tasks

 All the pasture teams and volunteers for prepping hay areas

 All the people who will help unload hay!