

Orinda Horse Association

Board Meeting Minutes 11-5-2025

Board Members Present: Kusia Hreshchyshyn, Sylvie Thome, Holly Turner, Mark Tompkins

Members Present: Linnea, Lila Abdul-Rahim, Eddie Reiter

Kusia called to order at 6:05pm.

1. Adoption of Agenda
No additions to agenda. Mark moved to adopt agenda. Kusia seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes
Mark motioned to adopt previous meeting minutes. Kusia seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. Appreciations / Accomplishments
Kusia appreciated the Day of the Dead celebration and gave a shout out of appreciation to all of our committees. Kusia also listed several accomplishments - the trail to Seaview that bypasses rocks, the Pond Barn feeding pathway behind the barn, and the arena boards that were fixed by Dennis.
4. Consent Calendar
Membership committee consensus and Board support for approving Harvey's proprietary membership.
5. Member Comment
Holly voiced appreciation of Lila's service on the membership committee. No other member comment.
6. Review 2024-25 AGP projects
Still waiting for response from EBMUD. Eddie and Linnea discussed developing an ongoing list of AGP projects that should be a shared document that all members can access and use to make suggestions. Linnea suggested we could also create a form which would include a link so members can view the full list of other member suggestions. Board will discuss this offline and communicate to members.

7. Planning Grid (https://orindahorsemen.org/?page_id=14063)
- a. October – *follow up*
 - i. Status of dues payments - all dues payments up to date or payment plans in discussion.
 - ii. Status of insurances - certificate of liability insurance to EBMUD - insurances are up to date.
 - iii. Status of taxes - file IRS 990N - tax filings for 2024 complete.
 - iv. Status of 2025 work hour close out - missing work hours and associated fees tabulated. Have not communicated missing hour payment requirements to members yet.
 - b. November - *current*
 - i. Review 2025- 2026 budget

Sylvie shared screen with latest budget spreadsheet. \$42,600 in expenditures in 24/25 (compared to \$35,700 for 23/24). Legal services retainer accounts for most of the increase in 24/25. Forecast budget for 25/26 expected to be about the same as 24/25. This assumes we stay at 33 horses and 17 associate members. Current bank balance is about \$43,000. Discussion of maintaining a significant surplus as tariffs could impact hay and maintenance equipment costs next year.
 - ii. Review [Pasture Calendar](#), [Rotation Schedule](#) upcoming herd moves
 - 1. 11/19 Through gate, Pond to Upper Sullivan
 - iii. Boxes and keys to new officers

This is in process.
 - iv. Fall work party planning

Carrie and Eddie have put out an announcement for November 22 . Please RSVP if you plan to attend. There is a list of tasks for this work party. Eddie may also help set up an alternate date for inclement weather and/or for people who can't make November 22. [N.B. after the Board meeting, the work party dates were confirmed for November 15 (Eddie leading) and 22 (Carrie leading)]. Also please be aware that members can do tasks on the task list anytime - please contact Carrie or Eddie if you complete tasks on the list.
 - v. Review & update Emergency Contact Tree procedures

No update - Mark to contact Michael Bowen for status.

- vi. Adopt current year budget (as soon as practical)

Mark motioned to adopt the 25/26 OHA budget. Holly seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

- vii. Pull coyote brush & scotch broom, feed on weeds ([map](#))

c. December – *look ahead*

- i. Review [Pasture Calendar](#), [Rotation Schedule](#) upcoming herd moves

The in-hand move committee (Heather Armstrong, Heather McHugh, Michael Bowen, and Harvey Smith) needs to finalize move logistics for December move ASAP. Mark to contact committee for status update ASAP.

- ii. CNGA dues (by Dec 31)

These are automatic pay. Can remove from future agenda and planning grid.

- iii. Plan AGP Capital Improvement Projects

No additional discussion.

- iv. Continue to feed on weeds ([map](#))

8. Task List Assignments, Pasture Teams

Kusia reported that she is about halfway done reaching out to Associates regarding their tasks.

9. Rules Revision

a. Overall Status

Linnea reviewed status. "Use of Stalls and Paddocks": 30 day review period has passed and there are comments that need to be addressed, after which the Board can vote to approve. "Work Hours Rules and Procedures": 30 day review period has passed and there are comments that need to be addressed. "Arena" revision has not been sent to membership for review yet. "Trailers and Vehicles" has been reviewed and has comments to address, after which the Board can vote to approve. Herd feeding has not gone out to members for comments. Linnea will complete the status table.

- b. Board Vote Rule Change/Adoption: OHA CULTURE, VALUES, AND BEHAVIORS, OHA DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES.

This is a new rule that was approved unanimously by the Board.

10. Worming

Discussion of ordering Fall wormers. Kusia will figure out when to order and work with Linnea on order.

11. Committee Updates

a. Treasurer's Report

See notes on item 7.b.i above.

b. Legal Committee

Nothing beyond the rules revision discussed above.

c. Membership Recruitment Advisory Committee

i. Harvey Smith - Trial Membership Review - committee recommendation from Heather M. Moved to consent calendar and approved.

ii. Associate membership with access to OHA trails and arena facilities to use with their horses and guests - opportunity for members to weigh in with any concerns, limitations, suggestions.

This currently applies mainly to Justin Johnson who has the property adjacent to OHA and horses on that property. He would like to be able to ride his horses on OHA property and use the arena. If members have input or comments on this please email the Board. Holly noted that since this benefit would extend benefits beyond typical associate membership there could be an additional cost and/or work hour requirement. Kusia asked if there should also be an expanded liability waiver for bringing non-OHA horses onto OHA property. Holly recommended that we require that documentation of vaccinations equivalent to OHA be provided for non-OHA horses. Eddie noted that old rules allowed associate members to bring their own horses to OHA to ride.

iii. Honorary membership

The Board received a question from a member about whether a previous honorary member would have their honorary membership reinstated after giving up their associate membership since the Board has paused future honorary memberships. The answer to this question is that there are no plans to remove anyone's honorary membership and any changes to the honorary membership category would go through the rules revision process.

d. Board Liaison Report

This has been replaced by the Membership Committee and will be removed from future agendas.

e. EBMUD Liaison Report

The AGP is under review and Jackie has promised to keep us informed. We've also asked about getting more gravel from EBMUD and Jackie said she is working on this and we might be able to get it Monday. There will be a new lease in 2027 and our acreage and AUMs could change. Eddie did recently see Jackie on the pasture and said there was less dry residual matter than expected so she will be surveying other pastures. Kusia shared that EBMUD has told us that they really value our stewardship of biodiversity.

f. Communications Report

This item is a holdover from previous Board agendas and will be removed from future agendas.

g. Pasture Reports/Herd Feeding/Rotation Committee

i. Horse spaces - Rotation committee recommendation on the question of pausing horse spaces - Erica

There is concern about pasture conditions and the possibility that we might exceed our designated AUMs given our current pasture use and that we nearly reached our cap this year. The near-term recommendation is to limit the herd size to 33 horses. Jackie and Joe from EBMUD have told us that they will work with us on the new lease and any potential changes to AUMs. Kusia motioned to accept the recommendation to cap horse spaces at 33 for now. Holly seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

- ii. Driving vehicles on pasture for work tasks, including feeding
On the date of the Board Meeting, the roads were too wet for trucks. The roads may dry out enough between rainstorms to drive on but members should use extra caution and best judgment to protect the roads and prevent damage. Once the heavy rains start, the roads will likely be inaccessible to trucks for the rest of the winter. The general guideline is that if your truck leaves tracks in the road do not use it to enter the pastures. Members can feel free to reach out to the Board for guidance when in doubt.

iii. Unfilled feeding slots

All members have signed up for the feeding slots. There are additional feedings available so members can sign up for these now.

12. New Business

Deferred to next meeting.

- a. Form for collecting release of liability forms / waivers
- b. Upcoming events?

i. Holiday event?

ii. Interest in a dog clinic?

- 13. Executive Session
Discussion of member issues.

14. Next Meeting

- a. December 9, 2025 @ 5:00-6:30 - pending Board consensus on the time.
- b. Let's post this date on the members website

Adjourned at 8:03 pm.