

Orinda Horsemen's Association General Membership Meeting Minutes 8/29/2021

Welcome and Introductions. Everyone on Zoom has attended a general membership meeting before. Kate will be time keeper – agenda is long; items not finished will be handled by the next Board. Attendees: Heather, Suzette, Eddie, Alix, Gary, Kim, Linnea, Michael Bowen, Michael Barglow, Carla, Erica and Wakean, Harvey, Kate, Liz, Marina, Sally, Anna Johnson, Cheryl, Lisa, Kusia

1) Updates

Annual Grazing Plan and Capital Improvements (Heather): Kerry is no longer our EBMUD ranger; Virginia Northrop is our interim Ranger. She knows OHA. The 20-21 AGP has just been approved – main projects are boundary fence repairs (Wildcat fences in disrepair after fire abatement project). \$1300 allocated; Virginia wants done in next month and a half. Weeding is the second approved capital improvement project. We also receive significant credit for complying with the Tier 3 grazing rotation schedule.. Virginia has asked that we fix the leak in the water box close to the Taj. Sally suggests asking Kandy. Michael Bowen reports that fence has been assessed and repair spots are known.

a) Membership Recruitment (Alix): Committee is waiting on advertising until the new website is up. Several people have been interviewed. Considerations include (1) conflict resolution training, (2) improved mentorship program. Question: Any interest from Facebook pages? Kim and Carla both have launched OHA facebook pages.

b) Legal Committee Report (Michael Bowen – 10 mins)

Michael Bowen provided an overview of the Legal Committee and in particular the update to bylaws, rules and procedures conducted by outside counsel. The Bylaws have not been revised since OHA's inception and the Articles of Incorporation are out of compliance with current law (Corporations Code). He noted that the outside counsel is wrapping up the bylaws and will soon provide the new board with draft work products for review.

Waiver of Liability: New forms are available. Please submit electronically if possible. Kim: Can we pick up forms as soon as left – Tuff Shed and White Shed are not safe or secure. Michael: hopes downloadable form on new website. We want electronic easily accessible forms. Thanks to Michael, Elise, Kusia and Heather.

c) Treasurer's report (Kate): Strong financial year for OHA. We've paid hay, insurance, legal fees. End of fiscal year is 9/30 and complete report will be available then. EBMUD < \$4000, hay bill is \$12, 000 this year (up from \$9K last year). \$1200 to move sheds (Bay Area Barns and Trails grant). After paying latest bills, we'll have \$21,000 in our checking account. Operating budget is \$26,000/year. Please send in any outstanding receipts so that Kate can close out this fiscal year. Please don't combine transactions – don't subtract what OHA owes you from what you owe OHA.

2) Member Comments;

Michael Bowen: all members welcome to attend Board meetings. Please do!

Wakean: Do we expect large bill from the lawyers? We've budgeted \$2500-\$5000. So far, have not used up retainer. Michael says that most of the retainer has been used so we will get more bills. Attorney is Barbara Rhomberg.

Kim: Her new children's book, "Cooper the Muddy Horse" is available for purchase, \$19.95

Marina: All members please fill in your work hours. It's a form of respect to keep them up to date. Also, we have big spread in hours done by members, with some doing a minimum. She recommends raising the work hour

requirement, and encouraging culture of work. Lisa: can we have more work parties – works well. Carla: make it easier to find the work hours webpage. Lisa: In Chrome, click on square, then “documents share with me”

Marina: members should be as peaceful as possible; don’t report things unless they are important. Don’t send anonymous complaints. All this takes lots of time for the Board.

Linnea: There are communication systems where people trying to talk with each other and help each other. Nonviolent Communication and Street Epistemology are examples. There are workbooks available. People interested in this can join together.

Anna Johnson: Assume positive intent! So much drama isn’t necessary, think how to make OHA a really fun place to me. Kate: think before you respond!

Eddie: change name to something other than “Orinda Horsemen”. MB: this is the right time to change our name if we want. Lisa: our name is in the Articles of Incorporation so legal and tax implications. Suzette: How about “Orinda Horse Club”? Anna: do business as “Orinda Horse Association”. Perhaps use both names.

- 3) Grazing Rotation Plan for 2021-22 (Erica et al). For last year and a half, we have been experimenting with rotation changes to cope with climate change and pasture changes. We’ve maintained Tier III even through a year of serious drought, just not enough moisture. Healthy horse forage, Plant diversity, habitat protection, sufficient rest time to allow for root recovery for the forage. Please do follow the spreadsheet which shows more than the calendar. AGP year begins Oct 1, which is the middle of the dormant season. See the spreadsheet for our goals now such as knocking down tarweed.

Herd split coming up in December. This is to help the horses and the pastures that are having hard time recovering (Lower). This is new. We are anticipating a dry year. By the end of January, Lisa will begin spring special grazing management with some horses going to the Lower Pear. There will be several special groups – some who need to diet, some need very short time grazing. The spring rotation in Pear will be similar to this year, which made EBMUD and MOFD happy.

Question: as we have more/fewer horses, how does the rotation change? Answer: basic rotation likely to stay the same but stays can be lengthened/shortened. As last year, Beer Can had more horses than expected so had to make changes. The current plan is based on history. Main strategy is try to build in some days of leeway so we can adjust as needed.

We can attach a copy to the minutes of this meeting. And as soon as approved by EBMUD, will be posted to website.

4) 2021-22 Capital Improvements Ideas

Marina asked if improvements to barns (as in Pond Barn, Red Barn, LP Barn) could be capital improvements.

Heather’s answer is “probably not” although if OHA can argue that barn repairs can help maintain the condition of the pasture, then might get approved by EBMUD.

Kim: Improve the road from the Lower Lower to the Upper Pear fixed across the big washout. Re-grade and use road to get to the Pear. EBMUD doesn’t want to maintain as fire road. Can we ask again? Lisa: single track is more hazardous than it used to be. Need better or wider trail. Current trail is steep and slippery.

Kim: Re-do wood fence at Red Barn saddling area. Red Barn needs re-painted. Re-grade around tie posts at Pavilion.

Wakean: Pond Barn needs painted and repairs, may need ditch around it. EBMUD might approve Pond Barn repairs or old barn near Beer Can, and may approve painting Red Barn since holds hay for winter feeding. He doubts that they will approved road repair.

Kusia: if we fixed road up from Upper Pear, would be less wear on the single track down to bottom. Ecological.

Lisa: grade road up to the Upper Pear

Michael Bowen: We should figure out how things CAN be done. Thinks that anything across a stream will be difficult and expensive. Consider how to present to EBMUD: Water quality improvement? Erosion control?
Anna Johnson: (1) repair barn in LP corral that is falling apart, and (2) put in shelter in Lower Pear for emergency use.
Suzette: Pond is disturbingly low. Does OHA need to consider water here?

5) Outreach

- a) Website (Linnea). Linnea shared the public page on the new OHA website – where people would land if they follow our advertisements. This is a test site; Linnea will send the link for all to comment. Member home page has new organization – tried to help members get to where they want to be. Main page has calendar, announcements, and a fast link to Emergency Phone numbers. Anna: faster to call Regional Park Police than to call 911.

Main Menu: has all the info that Linnea could find. If anything is missing here, let her know.

Pictures: One comment has been to add more pictures. If you send a picture via email to all of OHA, are you willing to have it posted to the website? Take pictures and send to Linnea! Especially of people having fun at OHA.

- b) Signage (Sally/Michael): Michael has volunteered to coordinate installation of the two new signs.
- c) T-shirts (Sally). – 35 shirt minimum. Shirts are in short supply because of Covid and limited trade from China. If you want for Christmas presents, order now.

6) Board Election

- a) Status of current Board
 - i) Continuing for second year of term - Alix, Marina, Heather
 - ii) Eligible for re-election – Eddie, Kate, Michael
 - iii) Not eligible for re-election (term limit) – Sally
- b) Nominations for four Board members ()
 - Eddie
 - Kate
 - Michael Bowen
 - Carla
 - Anna Johnson
 - Linnea
 - Harvey (declined)
 - Doug (declined)
 - Gianni (declined)
 - Tanya (declined)
- c) Voting process: see attachment from Heather.

7) Adjourn