

Horsemen's Council Minutes November 4, 2008

The meeting was attended by Drue Kerns, Christine Foster, Marj Harper, Nancy Hinman, Barbie Howell and Lindi Vishoot.

The minutes from October were reviewed, corrected and approved.

We received an email asking if we were going to have a Horse Expo at the park. We discussed this possibility. We haven't had one for several years. The last 2 years The Sapphire Event Center hosted one. At this time no one present is able to take this on. Lindi will reply to the email.

Thanks to Drue, the Mini Event netted approximately \$3,400. There were some cancellations due to weather concerns (it turned out to be a beautiful day). The policy has been not to refund money. Drue had to deal with some unpleasant comments regarding this unwritten policy. Drue will get a statement added on the Mini Event Entry form which states: no refunds except with veterinarian's verification.

Drue got approval for a liverpool to add to the stadium jumps. The cost is approximately \$375 including freight.

Drue is getting a bid to add a smaller trakehner jump next to the existing one. The existing one is so big it's difficult to school.

Drue brought up the need for permanent letters on the new dressage arena. Marj felt that if we left the metal triangular ones out they would rust & they were a bit expensive. We decided to screw on some less expensive metal ones that we have and they can be removed for the shows.

A client of Drue's, Jennifer Kendall, has expressed interest in helping to improve the web site. She was unable to attend the November meeting but will be there in December. We will bring ideas on how to improve the site to the next meeting.

Nancy Hinman has volunteered to help coordinate membership. She has managed memberships for other organizations and has the software. In the past there have been complaints about the time lag between when some one pays & when they receive the gate combination. We discussed the benefits of having a good data base to access phone #'s and addresses: rounding up volunteers/workers, mailing newsletters and membership drives. We will discuss this with Elizabeth Evangel, who has helped with membership in the past.

We discussed starting up the newsletter again, possibly 3x per year. Something short yet informative.

We discussed the need to increase memberships. Numbers from the Quicken program suggest a 16% drop in members from '06 to '08. Barbie brought up the possibility of getting businesses (such as Quality or local vets) to drop a little promotional flyer into the bills. We discussed informational posters @ stores, articles or advertisements in the Missoulian, Independent and/ or Rocky Mountain Rider. We'll discuss again in December.

Lindi will get bids for a new fence on the main arena, metal, vinyl and wood. The fence should be replaced before upgrading the water system. Barbie suggested that when Lindi gets bids, she offer the company's name to be put on the web site with a link to their business.

We spent >\$1500 on the porta potties this year. We may be able to go from 2 to 1. Lindi will get feedback from Laura Bakker as she uses that end of the park often.

We decided to keep the December meeting on 12/2. Lindi will contact Marge Clark (who will still be out of town) to see if there is anything specific she would like to bring up.

Marj Harper & Lindi will tighten up the PVC pipe on the new dressage arena. More sand still needs to be taken out. Barbie shared a great tip: if we find out where the gravel companies are crushing we can get more angular sand which tends to hold together better as opposed to slipping around like ball bearings.

Marj got a quote for someone to put up the chain link fence around the tractor implements. This needs further discussion. Lindi thought a long shed may be more beneficial and isn't sure of the importance of locking up the implements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Notes submitted by Lindi Vishoot