

December 2008 Horsemen's Council Minutes

The meeting began at 7 p.m. at Rosauer's Restaurant. Present were Sharon Barrett, Drue Kerns, Lindi Vishoot, Christine Foster, Barbie Howell, and Marj Harper.

Minutes from November meeting were read and approved.

Lindi reported that in answer to an email query sent to the Equestrian Park website re whether there would be a horse expo in the spring, neither the park, nor Sapphire Event Center in Corvallis, which also has held horse expos in the past, is planning to do another one.

She said also that Nancy Hinman is willing to help with membership bookkeeping.

Lindi also requested that council meetings be run more orderly, with adherence to Robert's Rules of Order.

Marj said she would be responsible for getting out newsletters for the coming year and thought that two, maybe three, would be the likely number.

Barbie volunteered to solicit businesses for sponsorship of the newsletters to help defray cost. It also was suggested that newsletters not only be sent to members but also be placed around town where horse people might find them and learn more about the park.

The first letter probably would not be sent out until early February after a draft of the season's calendar of events is ready.

Several people noted that Marge Clark, current president, is planning to send to members a year-end wrap-up letter re what went on at the park and what plans are in the works for the coming year.

Marj Harper was elected president for the coming year, and Jennie Schuler, vice president.

Lindi volunteered to take over duties of recording secretary. Dee Dee Gianchetta will serve as treasurer.

Outgoing officers Drue Kerns, vice president, and secretary Sharon Barrett said they would continue to meet with the council and help with park activities. Marge Clark has said she would do the same.

Barbie asked that the council consider offering discounted memberships to stables, in the way that family memberships are discounted over individual memberships. She suggested that a stable membership include a number of day passes that could be distributed to clients at stables as a way of introducing people to the park. Several council members pointed out that guest passes require that a park member accompany the guest. Barbie's request did not include members accompanying the people using guest passes.

Lindi moved that the discussion be brought up at the meeting in January after people have had time to think about such things as cost of stable memberships, and how to handle the problems that might ensue from guests using the park without being in the company of a member.

Council members discussed changes that could be made to several of the forms currently on the park's website.

After a discussion of what to do about Russell Riders who continue to ignore the park's regulations re wearing helmets, Marj said she would meet with the group's leader, Peggy Goodsell, re observing the helmet rule and also making sure that all riders are park members and that Peggy have releases from the parents of minors allowing her to be responsible for medical care in case of accidents.

It also was decided that Russell Riders should be charged a usage fee similar to that charged to groups who use the park for clinics. When the Russell Riders are practicing, they usually use the main arena two nights a week, making the arena off limits to other riders. That use also requires extra time from maintenance person and groundskeeper (Lindi) for watering the arena. Thus the need for a usage fee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Barrett, secretary