

Horsemen's Council October 2009 Minutes

Present ~ Alex Clemow, Lindi Vishoot, Anita Scott, Barbi Howell, Marj Harper, Connie Long, Mike Hartkorn, Drue Kerns, Lynn Thee, Susan Mayer, Jamison Starbuck

September minutes were read and approved.

As of October 6th the balance sheet shows \$14,813.59 in our accounts. A profit and loss report was generated for the Mini Events. Gross Income was \$4625 for the April event and \$2750 for the August event. Net income of \$2711.83 for the April event & \$1062.02 for the August event. We discussed the insurance amount being applied to each event. Instead of 1/4 of our annual insurance expense being applied to each Mini Event, 1/8 should be applied. This reflects 50% (vs 100%) of the annual insurance expense being applied to 4 events (3 mini events and the Expo). We will continue looking into ways to minimize expenses. Christine Foster is donating her pay (\$45), for office work at the last event, back to the Park. Drue estimates \$2100 net income on the upcoming event.

Alex Clemow, with the Montana Draft Horse & Mule Assoc., drafted a fine letter to the Council thanking them for the use of the park and waiving fees in exchange for work. They had teams mowing and spreading manure. We are planning to put a team to work later this fall. Their event brought members from all over the state and Idaho. The park got great reviews! Alex also brought up the possibility of doing some Combined Driving at the Park.

The Horsemen's Council hosted a lunch for the Draft & Mule folks and our general membership. We also planned to have a general membership meeting but we had very few show up. The weather was quite marginal and affected attendance. In the future we will have better advertising of the meeting and try & tie it in with another exiting event. The plan is to continue having an annual general membership meeting. Marj is going to buy back the extra paper plates, ect. for \$50.

Lynn Thee spoke on behalf of the U of M Rodeo Club. They are having a benefit auction later in October. She requested the Council donate a Family Membership to the auction. She felt it would be a great way to help get the word out about the park and potentially increase membership. Marj and Jamison felt that at this time we should not be making donations. Marj donated a painting for the event. Lindi voiced her concern that members are coming forward with positive ideas to promote the Park and are turned away in a negative fashion. This is negative PR for the Council.

DeeDee renewed the Park's insurance with Equisure with an annual expense of \$1800. We had to join USEF for this coverage. This includes coverage for our 3 Mini Events and the Horse Expo. We also have coverage under the County's policy. ***(DeeDee and Marj made a correction : We do not have coverage through the County)***

Marj received a bid from park member Steve Morris for the first leg of the perimeter fence along Tower. His bid is \$2000 for labor (Big Sky Stewardship Committee has

agreed to pay for materials). Ken Wood (who did the Main arena fence) gave us a bid of \$5237 (\$3887 labor/\$1350 materials). We discussed the importance of using good quality posts for longevity and the need for bracing as the fence is not a straight line. A motion was made and approved that Steve Morris gets the job @ \$2000.

The aluminum bleachers were received. Unfortunately, parts were damaged in shipping and Lindi submitted a replacement order. The new parts came in 10/2 and Don Jon will help assemble them on 10/7.

Susan Mayer and Jamison Starbuck are joining Laura, Marj and Barbi on the committee reviewing the bylaws. Rita is no longer involved. The current by laws are available on the website. Susan handed out copies of the proposed changes and the 2004 bylaws. Mike also submitted a copy of some older bylaws. A motion was made and approved that the Committee bring proposed changes to the next meeting to be discussed. There is no need to rush through this process.

We continue to discuss possibilities for Pres & VP. The meeting got a bit scattered at this point and so did my notes. Nominations occur at the November meeting so it will be clarified at that point. Over the last month the following names have been discussed Barbi, Ginny, Marge Clark and Laura. Lindi will talk with Marge Clark to clarify if she is still interested in either of the positions.

On October 13th there will be a meeting at the park w/ the Big Sky Stewardship Committee concerning the proposed West arena. Marj reported that Sue Mathewson will be working on grant for funding the arena. Marj will ask Laura or Ginny to obtain an estimate for the arena. Hopes are that much of the work will be donated but a commercial estimate is beneficial. The location needs to be reviewed in relationship to the possibility of additional stalls.

Lindi spoke on behalf of member Nancy Condit. She and her husband do the Discovery Maps for the Missoula area. Nancy thought that getting the Park on the map would help get the word out about the Park and hopefully increase membership. 75,000 maps are printed for the Missoula area and they have an interactive map online. For \$575, a graphic depiction of the park would be put on the map and block of advertising goes on the back. She proposed putting the park on the map in exchange for a membership. There was not enough support for this proposal. Jamison felt we need to have an advertising plan before we jump into it. Several felt it was mainly used by tourists.

Lindi spoke a bit on how we should deal with problems such as inappropriate actions at meetings, accusations of misuse of money, personal attacks and misconduct. It is preferable if we first try and have a reasonable conversation with the individual. This could clear up the problem or misunderstanding. If this attempt fails then it should be brought up with the Council. Susan also spoke on the importance of this. Common courtesy is a great concept.

Meeting adjourned @9