

Merced Horseman's Association
Board of Directors Meeting & General Meeting
Thursday, March 10, 2011 Minutes Final, approved 4/14/11

Call to Order: by President J.A. Thomas at approximately 6:40pm

In attendance: President: J. A. Thomas; Vice President: Tony Aragon; Secretary: Carol Suggs; Treasurer: Bill Suggs; Directors: Karen Camp, Arnie Kiil, Lisa Krogh, Jennifer McCulloch; Brett Weaver. (Absent Director: Michael Conley) Members/Guests: Karen Kiil; Caretaker: Dennis Friesen

Vision: Thomas stated his vision for the club which included a professional and positive attitude from the board, moving faster on decisions, listening to concerns and looking outside the box to attract members. Gave examples of different types of public exposure for the club such as possibly participating in Parades and working with other clubs. Explained his efforts in seeking vendors and professionals to give discounts to MHA members. Discussion of a membership card. Gave thoughts on allowing event chairs to have control of 10% of their event proceeds to go into a savings line for them to be able to use at their discretion for their event. Used the example of Gymkhana bringing money in and needing a timing light. Discussion of Horsemen's rights and protecting the club from potential issues with neighboring housing developments. Discussion of planting parameter trees to help cut down on noise and dust. McCulloch mentioned a local free paper for advertising. Krogh mentioned small trees from forest service or that she can get the club cottonless cottonwood saplings. Weaver said he could also look into trees for us. McCulloch also mentioned that possibly our nearby nursery would be willing to work with us on trees as well. Discussion of having rail events (English/Western) C. Suggs would contact Lisa Shields as it was heard that she might be interested in putting on some events.

Adoption of Minutes of February 10, 2011 Motion made by Weaver and seconded by A. Kiil. Motion accepted and Moved.

Committee Chairs Open: Awards dinner and holiday party: K.Kiil and McCulloch will chair. Stock Horse Shows: Amos' name was put on as chair in error, remove and replace with Krogh and Weaver. General consensus to hire "AQHA manager" to fulfill requirements needed for sanctioned show. RNSC chair and elision will be Weaver.

Correspondence: Thomas stated that Pepsi rep is emailing him. Camp needs to talk to Pepsi, they met with Camp about services and product. A. Kiil suggested that Pepsi be an advertiser. Amos commented that we don't do enough business for them to be an advertiser. **Skinner Insurance Policy Questions:** C. Suggs will follow up. Another notice was received.

Financial Report: Per B. Suggs the checking account balance as of last month is \$883.09 and we have \$276 deposit (\$100 memberships and \$176 donations) going in from the membership dinner. He reported that from looking about at prior year we should have a \$4000 +/- insurance bills that will need to be paid soon and he was looking at prior years membership revenues and stated the following: Last year dues: \$4600, 2009 dues: \$6100 and 2007 dues: \$8700. He emphasized that we need to do something to bring in more members and have something to offer to them. This is our bread and butter which pays to keep the club operating and it has shrunk considerably. Discussion about accounting fees and ways to reduce some of our expenses. Discussion on clearer communication about events and that each event chair is responsible for getting the word out to members and the public about their events. B. Suggs mentioned that the bank said we could get ATM cards for DEPOSIT only and requested that the board consider that. Camp makes a motion that the Board allow the three check signers, (Thomas, Aragon and B. Suggs) to obtain deposit ATM cards, seconded by McCulloch, motion accepted and moved.

Caretaker Report: Friesen reports that a water pipe broke under the mobile, he has repaired it but needs siding replaced but stated that it could wait until funds were available. McCulloch mentioned that at times that Lowes /Home Depot have scrap that might work. Friesen stated that it cost him \$29 to fix pipe and he submitted for reimbursement. He stated that the mower needs a new ignition (\$49 + shipping/tax). Stated that he got the fertilizer from Banducci but doesn't want to put it on yet because he can't mow. Provided a list of items needed for the **work day on March 26**. Tractor and Water Truck needs servicing (approx \$300 from N & S) A. Kiil to check with N & S to see if they will do swap for advertising. Aragon to bring battery charger at work day to see if that is problem. Needs foam to fill pipes (wasps) A. Kiil has a discount coupon, will use that and buy foam approximately \$50. Friesen also concerned about latch on arena gate not being secure, group will look at it at work day. Krogh made motion to reimburse Friesen for the pipe repair and for him to order the ignition for the mower and that A. Kiil could buy the foam needed not to exceed \$50. A. Kiil seconded the motion, motion accepted and approved. Friesen also stated that we need to work on the bucking chutes before the Jr Rodeo.

.bout the side front **gate being broken** along with chain and lock on 1/28 while he was gone. Apparently a car went through the gate and ended up in a neighboring field. Thomas had come out and taken photos as did Aragon. Aragon has information on the vehicles owner and will be researching going after the vehicle's owner for repairs to the gate and to our fencing. There is a case number with the police department. It was also stated that the police **advised moving our coils of cable inside** as there had been some theft in the area. Discussion about the **main gate repair and conversion** to a conventional sliding gate style. Thomas got estimate at \$1000 to use the existing gate, pour cement, rollers and for conversion to a rolling manual gate. The gate contractor stated that he could do this in various upgrade stages as we had funds (ie: making it electronic, key pad etc). Friesen reminded the Board that the **Tractor** needs maintenance. He stated that the **lawnmower** is having issues but he will work on it. The **water truck** has a dead battery and a front flat tire. Mentioned that we need to have this taken care of before the first event. Banducci mentioned that it costs the club approximately **\$150 per event to operate tractor** and truck. Friesen stated that the **panel trailer** needs welding before it is used. Discussion of **cleaning supplies** needed and Camp told him to give her a list and Kitchen crew will see to it that he gets what he needs. Friesen mentioned **fertilizer**, Banducci to get him some.

Capital Improvements (Supervisor Kelsey): C.Suggs reported that she compiled an email to Supervisor Kelsey regarding our needs and has not heard back. She will follow up.

Report on the Dues Dinner: Went fine, small group. Discussions on improving memberships. Suggestions made about offering a 2 year with a discount, a lifetime membership and member services with a laminated card. Discussion on protecting the cards so they are not easily duplicated.

Update on Property Damage from 1/28 incident: Aragon stated that he has been in contact with Detective Henderson of the Merced PD and they are filing felony vandalism charges against the violator who is currently in prison. There is a possibility that we can go after the vehicle owner's insurance and try and recoup of losses.

Tommy Lee Contract: Thomas went over some of the changes to the contract. Other suggestions were offered. It was agreed that \$900 would be the required deposit that would be banked for the last three ropings of the season which is to be April thru November on Wednesday nites and Sundays. Tommy Lee would pre pay the events and would be required to give 24 notice of cancellation in order for his rental amount to be applied to next event. If he doesn't provide cancellation notice with in 24 hours he will lose his \$300. Limit the number of cattle to 110. He will be charged accordingly for the use of the tractor, water truck and lights. Freisen would have them sign when they need to use the tractor, water truck and lights. Agreed to charge \$65 for additional equipment use and \$50 for light if used and that only an MHA authorized person such as Caretaker is to work the equipment. Freisen stated that Thomas needs to tell Tommy Lee that if it rains three days prior to the event that it should be cancelled because of arena condition. Either party can cancel by 20 days written notice.

Thomas to make changes as agreed and send contract to Tommy Lee. Kiil made motion to accept the contract changes and directed Thomas to present contract to Tommy Lee with the understanding that Thomas email the corrected contract to the board on Friday. Weaver seconds, motion accepted and moved.

Other: Thomas stated that he is meeting with a pg & e rep to discussion the grounds and energy efficiency.

Calendar: Open Sorting events were added at the 2nd Saturday of the month, 4pm. A.Kiil stated that he did speak to Parsons and would be agreeable on cattle at \$15 per head if we need cattle. Camp made a motion to approve the calendar with changes as suggested, McCulloch seconds, motion accepted and moved.

Advertising/Sponsorship List: discussion about buckle charges, it was agreed to change Event Sponsor description to Class Sponsor, it was agreed to ad another sponsorship opportunity called customized sponsorship.

Committee Chair Reports: There were no committee chair reports at this time.

Old Business: Golden Valley is doing a rental of the facility on May 21. Discussion of taking the tables out of the club house and using them in the arena. Verification of deposit due. **At Risk Kids Day Camp:** Amos was to report but had to leave. Tabled until next meeting.

Sharing and Open Discussion: McCulloch needs **ribbons** for Gymkhana. She will call Ingrams and see what kind of deal she can get and will report back via email to the board. Krogh stated that the **gate code** needs to be changes. New code was agreed on and members need to contact a board member or officer for code. Do not publish. Discussion as to who has **keys** to the facility.

There being no more further business McCulloch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm, seconded by Weaver, motion accepted and moved.