

# Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

## Board of Directors' Meeting

January 3, 2017

**Attendees:** Mo Wachman, Marjorie Porter, Jenny Powers, Terry Stecyk, Carmela Lizzo, Lori Bridwell, Mike Oster

**Absent:** Judy Riley

**Committee:** None, other than BOD members

**Guest(s):** None

Meeting called to order at 6:45pm.

### Reports

#### **Minutes – Jenny**

The minutes from the November 2 meeting were distributed via email. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented and seconded.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Judy**

The report was distributed at the meeting. The Board members reviewed the comparison of 2016 to 2015. Most of the expenses were related to the newsletter production in 2015. A loss of advertising income related to the discontinuance of the newsletter in print form was noted. The organization is financially sound. A motion was made to approve the reports, second and passed without comment.

#### **Membership Report - Mo**

Total membership as of 01/03/17 is 223, with 12 new for 2017. There are 33 lifetime members. Renewals for 2017 are arriving daily.

#### **Facebook Report - Terry**

Terry reported that there are now 756 "likes" up from 745 in November.

### Old Business

#### **Area Awareness Committee - Mike**

- Mike submitted a "job description" for this committee, which was reviewed by the Board. Mike developed the basis for the assumptions that were made. A motion was made to adopt the description, seconded and approved. Description is attached to January Minutes for reference.
- The next step in the process is to publish the description and request volunteers from membership to assist in monitoring issues that affect the community. Jenny suggested a focus on recruitment outside of the Board of Directors to obtain varying perspectives and to engage members in the organization.

#### **Website Advertising – Mo**

As of January 2017, there are three paid advertisers plus Frank Turben's exchange for website assistance. It would be good to have personal outreach to past advertisers to find out why they are no

longer participating. There has been no response from former advertisers. Some Board members offered to make contact with former advertisers on a one-on-one basis.

### **Social Committee - Carmela**

#### Holiday Bazaar – November 20

Although the Santa photo opportunity was an excellent idea, it appears there was too much competition at that time of year with festivals in Fountain Hills and Rio Verde, Troon Farmers' Market and other events at the same time. There were 16 vendors but not enough customers to be a viable event.

#### 2017 Events

- Spring Dance – March 18, Rural Metro Fire Station
  - Mike suggested a band and will provide Carmela with contact information.
  - Mexican theme with food similar to RVHA Christmas Party
- Garage/Yard Sale – April 22, Rural Metro Fire Station
- Chili Cook-off – February 12 or 16, Lorill Equestrian Center/Arizona Cowboy College
- Start of Summer Event – June, possibly Buffalo Chip

Other suggestions included:

- Hay ride (tractors and wagons) in the Fall
- Progressive dinner

Carmela will confirm dates and locations.

### **Hauled Water Issues - Carmela**

No update available. Waiting on ADWR feedback.

### **Trail Ride Committee – Jenny**

The committee arranged a group trail ride called the Cold Turkey Ride on November 25. This ride was held at Camp Creek near Bartlett Lake Road and was limited to privately owned horses. The riders had a great time with somewhat challenging terrain including hillsides, canyons, rock outcroppings and a waterfall. No mishaps occurred. The ride was attended by 4 of the 5 committee members, 3 guests of committee members and one RVHA member responding to promotions. This is somewhat disappointing given the good weather, new location and holiday weekend.

Terry has been working with Cave Creek Outfitters for a trail ride January 22 with both private and rented horses. Cave Creek Outfitters also offered the use of their meeting space at no charge for lunch to be brought in. Terry has created a flyer that has been promoted and will continue. Unfortunately, little interest by RVHA membership has occurred.

The committee will arrange another privately owned horse ride, possibly with a few horses hauled in by Lori if there is a demand, at the Tom's Thumb Trailhead in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The ride will be scheduled for March.

### **Roadside Clean-up**

There was a small turnout to the last effort. It was suggested that participation may increase if an incentive to attend is provided. The prize could either be donated or gift cards could be purchased. This

concept will begin next month at the clean-up scheduled for February 11 at 9:00am. Marjorie will remind Randy. Terry has a roll of raffle tickets if needed.

### **Bylaws Committee**

The committee will meet Friday, January 6.

### **New Business**

#### **Board of Directors Vacancy**

Mike Foti has decided to step down from the role as Board member. The proposed Bylaws, tentatively approved by the Board, allow for 7-9 members making it unnecessary to fill the opening at this time. Board members may make suggestions for a replacement as the election approaches.

#### **Charitable Donations**

RVHA made no charitable donations in 2016. In past years the silent auction at the dinner dance generated income to enable donations to be made. The 2017 budget will be assessed to determine if charitable donations are possible.

It was suggested that the following events, including a fundraising event of some kind, be considered in order to allow donations to be made. As time permits, Jenny will develop a survey for members to assess the level of interest in events such as:

- Fundraising event
- Progressive dinner
- Christmas lights bus tour
- Buffalo Chip dinner venue
- Hay ride
- Food drive

It was suggested that a silent or live auction be included at the spring dinner dance. Mike offered to serve as auctioneer.

#### **Committee Questions**

A discussion resulted from questions arising in the coordination of the trail ride planned for Cave Creek Outfitters. There was opposition to collecting fees for the horses although no part of the fee was to be retained by RVHA. The collection concept was suggested to encourage commitment on the part of those making reservations. Additionally, no information was available on liability insurance requirements. Marjorie will check with the insurance agent on both issues and share findings with the Board members to help better understand requests and the effect on the organization.

#### **Financial Disclosure**

Some Board members reported requests for financial information from members. The information is provided at the annual meeting for membership in May in conjunction with the election results meeting. It was decided that a simplified version of the year end financials be developed and posted on the website to be available as a download. A motion was made to provide this information on the RVHA website. Five votes in support, one against. Passed and will be communicated to Judy who was absent from the meeting.

**Tax Status**

Marjorie explained that RVHA is a 501(c)(7) organization defined as a social club to obtain federal tax-exempt status to comply with requirement for a non-profit category.

**Request**

Mo asked for any information Board members might have regarding the availability of an 8-12 year old gelding, Fox Trotter or Quarter Horse preferred, suitable for a 75 year old trail rider. It was suggested Mo contact Reining Grace Ranch or Four Peak Animal Rescue about potential adoption.

**Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45pm and seconded.

Submitted by

Jenny Powers, Secretary

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

**Area Awareness Committee JOB**

DESCRIPTION - DRAFT

January 3, 2017

The Area\_Awareness Committee (AAC) seeks to be informed about *Activities* that may result in changes that could impact us. Our areas of interest are:

- Within the Rio Verde Foothills area
- Public Lands/Open Spaces surrounding us
- Peripheral Private/Public Developments

Committee members will rely upon several *Sources* to stay informed:

- Public agencies
- Private sources
- News bulletins
- RVHA members

Members of the Committee will be our board members who have Volunteered to serve as 'stewards' for individual Sources or Activities. Additionally, there may be off-board committee members.

The Committee, as a fact-finding body, is *passive* by nature. We present ourselves externally as:

- Interested
- Supportive, when appropriate
- Concerned, when appropriate
- Participative, when requested by public agencies

Findings are reported to the Board of Directors on a monthly basis. The board may identify situations where RVHA should take an *active* interest.

The board may also direct how this information is to be distributed.