

# Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

## Board of Directors' Meeting

November 2, 2016

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

**Absent:** Mike Foti, Mike Oster

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

**Guest(s):** Liz Potof

### Reports

#### **Minutes – Jenny**

The minutes from the October 4 meeting were distributed via email. A few edits were received and revisions were made with the minutes redistributed. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented after edits and seconded.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Judy**

The report was distributed by email. There were no questions or comments. A motion was made to accept the report, seconded and approved without discussion.

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

Total membership as of 11/2/16 is 535, with 49 new for 2016.

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

Terry reported that there are now 745 "likes," an increase of 11 from the last report. Terry reported that there are 11 Facebook pages devoted to the Rio Verde Foothills area.

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association	Rio Verde Wild Horses
Rio Verde Swip Swap	Rio Verde Foothills Bulletin Board
Rio Verde Horse & Cattle Club	Everything Animal of Rio Verde Foothills
Rio Verde Foothills Water and Wells	Rio Verde Trail Riders
Preserve Rio Verde Foothills	Rio Verde Lifestyle
Concerned Rio Verde Neighbors	Rio Verde Alert
Rio Verde Foothills – Politics	

### Old Business

#### **Roadside Clean-up - Marjorie**

- A complaint from a realtor about the real estate signs is being reviewed. Signs are illegal except on the property being sold. Marjorie requested that Randy obtain clarification from the County and Randy is awaiting response on whether signs can be removed.
- It was suggested that a drawing for a gift certificate be offered to motivate a higher turnout of volunteers. Terry will follow-up with Scottsdale Livestock for a donation of a gift certificate as she is owed a favor from the store.

### **Website Advertising – Mo/Marjorie**

Mo, Terry and Marjorie are meeting on Friday to discuss options for advertisers since the website advertising has not been popular.

A motion was made to give Bonnie Burke a complimentary two months of advertising space as a thank you for her chairing the Welcoming Committee and for sponsoring refreshments for the roadside clean-up. The motion was seconded and approved without comment.

### **Social Committee - Carmela**

#### Holiday Bazaar – November 20

Only four vendors have signed up so far. The Board approved the purchase of candy canes for Santa's appearance from 11am to 1pm. The food truck mention will be deleted from the flyer as the minimum will not be met.

Recruitment efforts for volunteers for this committee have been unsuccessful.

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

No update available. Waiting on ADWR feedback.

### **Christmas Lights Tour - Mo**

The email to assess interest was not seen by many and only four responses were received. It was suggested that a day be planned with ticket price included and accept reservations for the date to determine level of interest.

Carmela provided quotes of \$17.50 per person if 20 people participate; \$14 per person if 25 people participate. RVHA would supply hot chocolate and cookies. The bus will meet participants at the Shell station. Date selected is Sunday, December 18. Carmela will arrange and provide information to Mo to promote. The cut-off for reservations will be December 15 and tickets are non-refundable after December 15. Lori offered to purchase refreshments.

### **Trail Ride Committee – Jenny**

The Committee now has three new members in addition to Jenny and Terry. The Committee is meeting on Saturday, November 5 to meet one another, discuss future rides, select dates and locations. The meeting will be followed by a trail ride at Brown's Ranch.

The first ride will be Thanksgiving weekend – the Cold Turkey Ride, with a proposed location of Camp Creek. Riders will be asked to bring a lunch to eat at the trailers following the ride. Jenny will create a flyer for distribution.

Jenny is also working with the Arabian Horse Association of Arizona (AHAA) to coordinate with that organization's Christmas Ho Ho Ho Ride at Brown's Ranch. The Trail Ride Committee members will be invited to attend. Jenny is mentor to three new McDowell Sonoran Conservancy stewards-in-training, all of whom are from AHAA.

Jenny is working with Susan Bowers to schedule a team sorting clinic at Lost Cowboy Ranch in the spring. The clinic is delayed due to extensive planning and preparation for Susan and Brian's daughter's wedding, which will be held at Lost Cowboy Ranch in March.

Terry will make arrangements with Cave Creek Outfitters once the Committee meets and sets dates for the winter ride at that venue. A flyer will be created for promotion.

### **RVHA Board/Committee Christmas Party - Marjorie**

The party will be held at the home of Mike and Susan Oster and is not a pot luck event. There will be a cookie exchange and everyone is asked to bring cookies to trade.

### **Area Awareness Committee – Mike**

The Committee continues to watch for movement on the three major possible developments near Rio Verde Foothills:

- Reata Ranch Guest Ranch – 220 acres on south side of Rio Verde Drive between 128<sup>th</sup> St and 136<sup>th</sup> Street. The project is a western themed resort/dude ranch community being developed by the son of Lyle Anderson, who developed Desert Mountain. There will be 106 lots and 127 villas plus 13 estate homes and a hotel with 180 guest rooms.
- Sereno Canyon Spa & Resort – 350 acres adjoining the Preserve on 118<sup>th</sup> Street between Ranch Gate Road and Pinnacle Peak Road. The owner of Rockefeller Center has already invested \$40 million in the land, utilities and streets. The plan is to build a 350-unit spa and resort.
- Scottsdale National Golf Club has recently been granted a hotel permit.

Mike urged caution and thoughtfulness in passing along information on the projects to including the opinions of individuals.

### **Desert Discovery Center**

Terry shared the position statement from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy regarding the proposed Scottsdale Desert Discovery Center (attached for reference) and to remind everyone that the project is in the concept stage and it is premature to form strong opinions when nothing has been decided yet. The City of Scottsdale will host open houses as information becomes available for review.

### **RVHA Newsblasts**

Jenny asked for clarification on how information is collected and decisions made on membership distribution. Marjorie explained that information is received from vendors, members and non-members and from news items Marjorie or Mo have seen. Mo receives the information and if there are questions, Marjorie is contacted. The criteria are that information must relate to the general interests of the community and is for information only. An attempt is made to avoid highly controversial issues. Mo and Marjorie can distribute with their discretion. Information should include the disclaimer that RVHA is not taking a position on an issue, but is sharing information useful to members in forming their own opinions.

### **New Business**

#### **Committee Volunteer Recruitment**

Marjorie sent a request for volunteers to the membership and any responses were sent to the appropriate committee chairs for follow-up. The Election Committee requires one Board member and one non-Board member. Pam Griffith agreed to chair the Committee. A motion was made, seconded and no comments were made regarding the motion or the committee participants.

#### **Bylaws Committee**

Marlene and Barbara are still serving and met to review and consider any updates that may be needed. The Committee will begin working on revisions as it is a lengthy process. The following questions have

been identified by the Committee so far as needing attention. The Board addressed the questions during the meeting:

- Why can't significant others of BOD members also be BOD member?
  - Potential to create a "block" of voting
  - Unfair influence, may not oppose each other
- Why are there so many members on the Board?
  - Suggested reduction from 9 to 7
  - Reduction would require rewriting the Bylaws and voting by membership
  - President doesn't vote except in case of a tie
  - Consider minimum of 7, maximum of 9
- Missing three consecutive meetings – cause for dismissal from BOD
  - BOD members are volunteers and have lives outside of RVHA that may interfere with attendance
  - Carmela will touch base with Mike Foti on his interest in continuing as BOD member
  - Should Bylaws be changed to "may not miss more than 4 meetings out of 9 each year" rather than consecutive?
- Bylaws state that the Board may have a parliamentarian. The parliamentarian is not a time-keeper so having someone in this position would not serve to address the length of the meetings as was suggested by some.

### **Special Meeting – December 6**

Terry graciously offered her home for the meeting, but some Board members preferred a shorter drive and Judy's home was suggested as an alternative.

The meeting will start at 6:45pm in an effort to conclude at a reasonable time. Terry will bring a dish to share.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:25pm and seconded.

Submitted by  
Jenny Powers, Secretary