

**Rio Verde Horsemen's Association**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**January 9, 2018**

**Attendees:** Terry Stecyk, Jenny Powers, Lori Bridwell, Carmela Lizzo, Kim Edwards, Mike Oster  
**Absent:** Mo Wachman  
**Committees:** None other than BOD members  
**Guest(s):** Lee Edwards, Gull Saarup, Jean and Ferrel Anderson

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Guest Speaker – Gull Saarup**

Gull provided a report on the local area aircraft monitoring project he is involved with. Gull was contracted by a private client to monitor the adherence to federal aviation rules, primarily by flight school aircraft in our area, which is now classified as a “congested area.” This reclassification carries an elevation requirement of 1,000 feet instead of the previous 500 feet requirement. In wilderness areas, including the Rio Verde River valley, the requirement will become 2000 feet when regulations go into effect.

Gull has found that aviation schools are not always in compliance with the regulations and he has been compiling a database of offenses. While compliance by offenders has been requested, it is not always given. His study is an effort to encourage the FAA to enforce regulations and provide a safe environment for residents.

The Board appreciated Gull’s providing an overview of the situation and he was invited back to give periodic updates as his study progresses.

**Reports:**

**Minutes – Jenny**

A motion was made and seconded to defer the review and approval of past minutes to the February meeting. Motion approved.

**Treasurer’s Report – Mo (Terry reporting)**

Due to Mo’s absence the report will be deferred to February. Terry announced that Mo would like to step down from the treasurer role at the May elections. Terry will check on the Bylaws concerning who would be eligible for the treasurer’s role and if the role could be filled by an “invited guest” rather than a BOD member. It was suggested Judy Riley may be interested in taking back this responsibility.

**Membership – Mo (Terry reporting)**

As January 9 there are 221 members for 2018, 15 of those are new.

**Social Media- Terry**

There are 909 “likes” on Facebook. Terry has been sharing social media posts with Rio Verde Foothills Bulletin Board, the Cave Creekers Infamous Bulletin Board, and Next Door.

### **Area Awareness – Mike**

Sereno Canyon is a development planned for 350 acres owned by the Crown family (Rockefeller Center) and has engaged Toll Brothers for construction. The project could include up to 397 homes including townhomes and a lodge with resort villas.

The Outpost commercial project at the northwest corner of Pima and Dynamite includes a gas station, general store, hardware store, and restaurant. The restaurant has recently been deleted and replaced by a farmers' market and nursery. No building permits have been issued yet.

There is a County meeting on Friday, January 26 for interested parties on related planning, zoning and code enforcement issues in our district.

Jean Anderson raised the discussion that Tonto Verde is attempting to purchase the property at the southwest corner of Rio Verde Drive and McDowell Mountain Road. Currently the property is planned for a commercial center with a medical center and small store. Additionally three-story townhomes, which would require an exception due to height, are also planned in place of 32 single family homes. Permit mistakes have delayed construction. There is a Tonto Verde Board meeting tonight. Mike agreed to research and report back to the Board.

### **Social Committee**

Christmas Light Tour - Saturday, December 16, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

The tour had 35 registrations with five cancelations due to illness. Substitutes were found for some of the unused tickets. Using a map from *Arizona Republic*, and suggestions from a local tour company the route was planned. Everyone had a very enjoyable time, the bus was comfortable and afforded good views and the driver was excellent. Hot chocolate and cookies were served during one of the stops where attendees could walk through displays with a petting zoo and nativity scenes. Terry is researching a double decker bus tour next season, which would require advance reservations.

Spring Trail Ride - March 2018

Lori was asked to review her schedule and select dates that will work for her property.

St Patrick's Day Event - March 17

To be discussed at the next meeting.

Archery Demonstration –April 7

Scheduling depends on Diana's availability. Carmela will follow-up.

Cortland Trail Ride - 2018

Cortland has offered to lead a trail ride incorporating the Verde River as he has done in the past. Terry will follow-up to obtain suggested dates.

Equine Body Work Clinic– 2018

Jenny will contact the provider to see if a clinic can be arranged.

Team Sorting Clinic – 2018

Although Lost Cowboy Ranch will not be moving to Dallas as previously planned, there have been no team sorting events scheduled in the past year. Jenny will contact Susan to see if they are open to holding a clinic this spring. Lori offered to assist if help is needed.

### Rattlesnake Avoidance Training - March 2018

The Newbury ranch is available and both Web and Willow will hold sessions. Announcements will be made for registration when scheduling is finalized.

### Old Business

#### **Quarterly Newsletter**

The December edition received positive feedback for an improved, appealing layout. The proofing process is working well.

#### **Welcome Postcards**

There were 101 postcards sent in 2017, 35 will be going out soon. The cards are sent every quarter pending County updates of property records.

#### **Road-side Clean-up**

Twelve gift card winners were drawn at the December clean-up from the names of everyone who participated in 2017. All cards have been distributed with the exception of one non-member whose contact information is not available. It is hoped she will attend in February to receive her card. Names will be collected through 2018 for another year-end raffle of gift cards as an incentive for this initiative. The next event is scheduled for February 17 at 9:00am. The schedule change is due to the Parada del Sol.

### New Business

#### **RVHA Elections**

Mike, Jenny and Terry are up for re-election this year. The annual meeting and election results gathering is scheduled for April 29 at Carmela's property. Terry will back-up the election schedule from there. Pam Griffin and Mo will make up the Election Committee. Election Buddy program will be utilized again this year.

#### **Farmer's Market**

RVHA has been offered a free booth space to provide information on the community. Terry recommended the Alma School location early in the year. Poster, postcards, and membership forms will be available. Volunteers are requested to help represent the organization in the booth.

#### **Sending Information to Members**

The Bylaws provide no guidance on what information can or should be sent to our members or what information requires BOD approval to share. Guidelines should be developed regarding surveys, and other information and the process for BOD approval when required. Terry will follow-up.

#### **Member Survey Results**

Discussion centered around the perceived low response rate and that the results may not accurately reflect the community. The issue discussed was whether or not RVHA should take a position and make a public statement on the Desert EDGE project currently being debated in Scottsdale and why RVHA is taking a stand. It was proposed that RVHA draft a letter to the City of Scottsdale Council supporting opposition to this project based on the feedback of the survey (11 in favor, 43 opposed, 25 no position). A vote was taken to draft a letter and then meet again to decide on content and whether to submit. Three in favor, two opposed. As time permits, a letter will be drafted and submitted for review by the BOD. Then a decision will be made on how to proceed. The alternative would be to provide contact information to RVHA members and encourage them to voice their position to the City of Scottsdale.

A discussion followed on the few negative remarks made on the survey in general with no action required.

**Aircraft Noise**

A lawsuit involving commercial aircraft and historic Phoenix flight paths has reached a conclusion. In April flights over Phoenix related to the lawsuit will cease. Meetings are being scheduled to address on-going concerns and provide information. RVHA will post scheduled meetings as the information becomes available.

**Volunteers**

It was recommended that application forms be revisited to obtain a list of members interested in helping the organization and outreach made by telephone to those individuals. The review assignment was not made to a BOD member and will be addressed again at the next meeting.

**Nest Meeting**

The next RVHA Board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6. 6:30pm refreshments, 6:45pm start.

**Adjourned**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Submitted by:

Jenny Powers, Secretary