

Rio Verde Horsemen's Association Board of Directors' Meeting

February 21, 2024

Attendees: Jenny Powers, Carmela Lizzo, Terry Stecyk, Mike Miola, Lori Bridwell, Linda Vinson
Absent: Zondra Poteste
Guests: Kip Micuda, Board Member prospect
Tawnya Lehnen, Garden Tour proposal

The meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m.

Introduction of Guests

Kip Micuda, an attorney with Hildebrand, Law, P.C. submitted the only nomination form for the 2024 RVHA Board of Directors election. As per the process outlined in the Bylaws, Kip automatically may fill one of the open Director positions. The current Board welcomes Kip to the organization.

Tawnya Lehnen is a local resident of Rio Verde Foothills and the owner of Wild Cactus Farms. Tawnya is involved with not only cactus gardens, but in organic produce and provides education and guidance for those interested in sustainable backyard farming. Tawnya discussed plans for a local garden tour, recruiting sites to visit, logistics, organizing, and promotion. The proposed date is April 6 and RVHA will assist with any aspects where the organization can be of help. It was thought setting timeframes to mitigate parking issues and limiting the tour to no more than five locations would facilitate the process of self-guided tours. Tickets for the event would be secured through Membership Works so that attendance can be estimated and planned for. More information to come as the plans are put in place. The Board thanks Tawnya for this concept and for heading up the effort!

Reports:

Minutes - Jenny

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed via email with no edits received. Motion to accept as submitted was made and seconded. Minutes accepted. Jenny will send the files to Frank to post to the RVHA website.

Treasurer's Report – Zondra

The Treasurer's Report was distributed via email. A brief review of the year end financials followed with no questions presented. Taxes for 2023 have been filed. A motion was made to accept the report and seconded. Accepted without comment.

Area Awareness – TBD

Linda has offered to contact the Realtors Commission and Representative Kavenagh to gather information on how to change the law regarding the loop hole that allows development of four or fewer homes with no guarantee of water in our community.

Water Issue Status

Response to the community by EPCOR has been minimal and it has not been possible to set up a community meeting for the presentation of information and for clarification of the project. Carmela will contact EPCOR on behalf of RVHA in an effort to secure a response and set up a meeting to address residents' questions and concerns.

Social Media – Terry

There is no change from last month.

Membership

There are currently 453 RVHA members. Jenny is fulfilling membership cards for those who have joined or renewed. This is our heaviest time of renewals due to the previous calendar year membership term.

Welcome Committee – Bonnie

Bonnie reported that 14 postcards were mailed in December. January information is not yet available.

Roadside Clean-up

There was a good turnout for the event on Saturday, February 10 at 8:00 a.m. Carmela will be in touch with Sabrina to schedule the next event. There was discussion regarding the City of Scottsdale picking up the trash collected. Sabrina will follow-up.

Social Events – Carmela

Schedule of events:

Spring Dinner Dance	Saturday, March 16	Cave Creek Outfitters
Rattlesnake Training	Saturday/Sunday March 16/17	Shadow Hill
Pancake Breakfast/Rural Metro promo	Sunday, April 21	Rural Metro Station

It was decided that just the larger value donated items (a statue from Terry and trail ride from Lori) will be raffled at the Dinner Dance. Smaller value donations may be collected for a raffle at the upcoming Pancake Breakfast.

The Pancake Breakfast will include an opportunity for local businesses to present information to the community. Suggested businesses were local veterinarians, Pony Express Café, other restaurants, etc. Carmela is working with Arizona Foothills 911 and Sunny Parker has committed to attend. Rio Verde Foothills Bulletin Board Taco Tuesday promotion is a resource on which to base outreach to local businesses interested in promoting to the community. The Board will discuss how to coordinate this effort at the next meeting. The RVHA Annual Meeting of Membership will be held in conjunction with this event.

Old Business

Bylaws Survey

Mike reported that 40 responses to the survey to approve the Bylaws updates have been received as of this meeting with 38 of those responses approving the document. Mike provided a report from JotForm. Carmela and Terry will work on an announcement to the membership regarding approval. Jenny will send the updated Bylaws file to Frank to replace the outdated version on the RVHA website.

Election 2024

Only one nomination form (Kip Micuda) was received so there is no need to proceed with the election process. The Board approved Kip filling one of the Director vacancies and we look forward to his contribution to the organization. The proposed officers are as follows:

Carmela Lizzo, President
Mike Miola, Vice President
Jenny Powers, Secretary
Zondra Poteste, Treasurer

Motion was made to approve officers as listed, seconded and passed without discussion.

New Business

RVHA Newsletter

Target date for publication is the first week of April. Board members are encouraged to contribute at least one article to the newsletter. The deadline for submission will be set at the next meeting.

Complimentary Memberships

Complimentary memberships were extended to Kim Newberry and Joe Blanchard as a thank you for the use of Shadow Hill for providing a venue for rattlesnake avoidance training. A membership was previously extended to Elaine with Scottsdale Livestock as a thank you for her promotion of RVHA membership at her store.

Business Card Advertising

With Veruschka's registration there is currently no one responsible for business card advertising. Board members without consistent contributions to the organization are encouraged to consider taking on this task, which will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Trilogy Event

Only three people attended the Happy Hour event that Mike and Michelle were invited to. Mike is working with the Equestrian Club, which has about 50 members, to schedule RVHA to make a presentation on our organization.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19. Board members will be asked to sign up to provide meeting refreshments at that time. Jenny will bring refreshments for the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Submitted by: Jenny Powers