

Minutes of TWHA meeting on 2/1/2012 at Lisa McLaughlin's house

Present: Ute Frey, Gary Fitts, Lisa McLaughlin, Kim Abbott, Morris Older, Page Schorer, Susan Palo, Lila Abdul-Rahim.

1. Prior meeting December 2011 Minutes: approved unanimously.

Ute agreed to write Minutes for the January Annual meeting.

The Board agreed unanimously that starting in January 2012, copies of Board Minutes will be posted on TWHA website except those Minutes reflecting Executive Session.

2. Treasury Report Kim Abbott:

\$ 7110 TWHA balance

\$ 805 trail fund balance

6 Day Benefit Ride \$5337 balance; this includes payments already made to TWHA, MHA and for the Annual Meeting dinner.

From the Jan Annual Meeting Income:

\$110 membership – through Eventbrite

\$710 dinner tickets – Eventbrite

\$675 check from Page for the cash and checks he collected at the event and from Kirsten; believes this includes 4 memberships.

It is believed that the club approximately broke even between the costs of the dinner/meeting and the income from it.

3. Membership Report Page Schorer: his hard drive crashed so he does not have a report. Approx 57 members and some have not renewed.

Discussion: How to increase membership? Page wants to re-invite dropped-out members to rejoin. A letter to them with SASE/ email eventbrite/ phone call? Or combination of all 3. Agreed this will be a separate agenda item next time.

4. Newsletter Report Morris Older:

He has several articles and is thinking of a theme, a “Long Distance Riding” issue. Lisa discussed a “long riders” organization she knows of and will maybe do a short article. Discussed doing an April Fools issue – but need to get the articles soon, before the next Board meeting.

5. Discussion: Board Member Responsibilities: Should we require Board members to submit reports prior to a meeting if they cannot attend? Lila will send around the bylaws to clarify how quorum is defined. Should we allow proxy voting by email?

Gary made a Motion: If cannot attend Bd meeting its your responsibility review emails and submit a report on what working on and comments on agenda items. **Unanimously passed.**

6. EBATC/CHSA Report Morris Older: they have not met since October. And, for the last 1.5 years if Morris doesn't call a meeting, it doesn't happen. Bicyclists no longer attend.

CHSA is working on their Spring Stampede; it is the same weekend as hike/ride that Ridge Trail is sponsoring.

Ute asked if anyone had heard about possible conflicts occurring in Redwood Park between riders/bikers; this was reported at an MHA membership meeting.

7. Trail Work: Susan Palo is retiring from this position. Morris agreed to take position if the job is split –he will do the liaison work with the park. Lisa M. agreed to do the other parts (tally RSVP's, refreshments) and Jen Rader indicated she will also help out per her recent email. Susan would like work list solicitation and hot spot map to continue. Proposed trail work day date: they will set the date.

8. Page discussed he would like to see a more business-like way of handling TWHA money. It was agreed that we need more help at times we collect for events (like the Jan meeting). Ute suggested 2 lines, one for prepaid and one for collection of cash. In addition, it was suggested to use a form to fill out and reconcile at end of meeting by handlers. Agreed next year to discuss at the November meeting the staffing needs for the next Jan Annual Meeting. Morris has a form that we can use.

Discussed whether TWHA should have a PO Box for receipt of checks. At least, we will need to change the address to which people send checks when Kim retires as treasurer. We will revisit this issue.

9. Events: Becky Mertens not present.

Meet a Horse Day – Lisa proposed to liaison at park for doing this in conjunction with the Wildcat trailer parking opening – will be in end April/May. Morris suggested we could do a trail work day on the same day, coordinate. Ivan Dickson Day also? Lisa to coordinate with the trail work committee.

Night at the Movies: We would like to do again. Ute will contact Becky about becoming involved in this again. 11. Horse-related events this year? Morris: we used to have camp-outs, fun day, groups rides. Group discussed planning an Es Anderson ride/campout – in approx June this year. Coordinate with Sequoia? Or just local? Lisa M. will take on finding a date with Sequoia. Charge for lunch but no fee. We do the logistics. Or day/lunch ride.

Another idea: ride to Pinole watershed to see new trails; but will need trailers.

Next meeting: Kirsten's house – April 4 2012 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned.

(Do not publish the following Minutes)

In Executive Session, the following was discussed:

11. TWHA donations:

Donate to Twainheart in Sierras? They do a ride yearly 5-6 day ride; their clubhouse was destroyed, not insured. **Motion made: donate \$150 to them. Votes: 5 in favor, one opposed. Motion passed.**

Question: what external clubs do we want to belong to (and pay membership fees to?)

Do we donate to horse rescue causes? Discussed the survival of Grizzley Peak Stables; 2 horses left there by owner. Debby is supporting all horses. Place is for sale. She will have to take whatever offered. Is survival of local barns inherent in our mission? Morris thinks that getting rid of (finding homes for) these two horses will allow her to continue the barn. There are other local barns that are also in financial trouble. Do we spend club money to help private owners like this? Is it part of keeping equestrians in the parks and thus related to trail preservation?

Gary defined 3 issues:

1. Moose – foundered horse at GP: do we donate for vet/horse transport?
2. Set up a committee- Gary will ask the question of Debby and Peter Rich if there is anything our club can do to help (not necessarily by giving money).
3. clarifying our mission: Gary and Lila and Ute will be on committee to address this.

Lila to send Bylaws/mission statement to all, so we can review what kinds of donations fall within the Mission; or whether we want to propose amending the Mission.