

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – June 20, 2017

Board members attending were: Paula Beckett Bliss, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, and Marion Lee. Ann Hayes of Visit Loudoun and Christie Kimberlin attended as visitors.

The meeting began at 9:15 a.m.

Secretary: The minutes of the May 16 board meeting were approved.

Treasurer: Stephanie said that there was a balance of \$4327 in the LCEA account.

Membership: Sheli said that there are 36 individual members and 56 business members. She has sent letters to individual members who have not yet renewed. She proposed a family membership category. Marion said she would check to see if the Bylaws need to be changed to accommodate family memberships.

May 20 Temple Hall/Fabbioli Winery Trail Ride: Kelly said there were 20 trailers, so probably about 40 riders, and the ride was a great success. The possibility of a ride from Temple Hall to White's Ford was discussed and also the possibility of riding the perimeter of the winery.

Parks and Recs: Kelly said 60 people attended the initial trail meeting. A second meeting is planned. It will be a working session open to the public. A master plan for Banshee Reeks shows a provision for equestrian trails and an equestrian facility. A revision to the master plan says there could be perimeter trails (that could connect with the Evergreen Mill Park trails). The "Friends of Banshee Reeks" organization seems to have a lot of authority as to what is authorized for Banshee Reeks. Franklin Park Master Plan includes equestrian usage, but not Frisbee golf (which is now being played in the park). Also, according to the master plan, bikes are not allowed in Franklin Park. It may not be necessary to have an ADA (Americans for Disability Access) trail through Franklin Park. There will be a meeting at Franklin Park on July 17 attended by the mayors of Round Hill and Purcellville, among others. There is a possibility of an equestrian trail around Sleeter Lake. Kelly said that P&R still want to put a ring in Lovettsville Park. When asked for ring specifications, Kelly told them to build the ring to USDF specifications. She questioned to the meeting whether P&R would even have the funds for grading the area.

Rural Roads: Landowners are asking that a portion of Greggsville Road not be paved. If it weren't all paved, the county would have to pay back some of the fees for developing the road. One equestrian business landowner has property on both sides of the road. The Drive Gently program has not moved forward though REDC. Groups such as Bikes Loudoun, USTR, and LCEA need to spearhead the effort to put signs such as "Slow Down", "Share the Road", etc. on private property. Separate signs with pictures work best.

Middleburg Training Track: The track is under new ownership of Chuck Kuhn, owner of JK Moving. Otto Gottmer is the marketing manager. They hope to enhance and re-open the track soon, and they are also interested in accommodating other equestrian needs on the 150 acres. LCEA has been invited to meet with Otto and Chuck at the track on June 30 at 8 a.m.

Taxes on Farm Buildings: Taxes on farm buildings have increased for many people. The Farm Bureau has put together some questions, but they were not getting answers, so they are now putting their questions to the Board of Supervisors. REDC would like to see an open process of taxing with itemizing on the tax bill and better training for tax assessors – and also more education for property owners. Kelly said that LCEA would support a more open policy.

2018 Expo: Sheli said she would plan visits to the following possible locations for a 2018 LCEA Expo: Ida Lee, the Ice Skating Rink in Purcellville, and the new Event building at Fox Chase. Sheli said that the Skating Rink charges \$250 an hour; there is enough room, but we would need to rent tables. Ann mentioned the Olympic Skating Center by Leesburg Airport and Stone Tower Winery as possible locations. Sheli said she would like to consider charging vendors who are business members more for tables.

Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan: Emily said the plan is very generic.

Quarantine Station: Kelly asked Ann (Visit Loudoun) to support an equine quarantine station at Dulles Airport.

Nominating Committee & Elections: Marion will send board members the list of current board members whose terms are expiring and who need to be re-elected. Sheli said she had a friend who might be interested in serving on the board. It was decided that all updated and new bios should be submitted to Marion by June 28. She will then make up a ballot and send it and the bios to Stephanie, who will send them out to all members for voting.

The meeting was adjourned about 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting will be at Janet's house – 2017 Annual Meeting – Vandervaart Residence – 39274 Snow Lane, Lovettsville, VA 20180

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee