

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – July 20, 2015

Attendees were: Dorothy Beach, Paula Beckett Bliss, ~~Kellie Boles~~, Louise Cotulla, Kelly Foltman, Stephanie Jennings, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, Janie Rentz, ~~Jacqui Ross~~, Mary Terpak, ~~Janet Vandervaart~~, and Terri Young.

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary: The minutes of June 16, 2015, were approved.

Membership: Mary said there were 62 members.

Treasurer: Stephanie said there is \$1922.18 in the LCEA account.

Survey: No update. Completion is still expected within 1 - 2 months.

LOCOTA/Trails: Paula said that the LOCOTA meeting tomorrow may be postponed, as many people are out of town.

Evergreen Mills: Kelly suggested that LCEA recommend multi-use (bikes and equestrians) on the Evergreen Mills trails every day, as no problems have been reported with the six-month trial of multi-use on Wednesdays. She also said that the kiosk had recently been vandalized, and she reported it to Mark Novak. It was agreed that equestrians should be contacted (a notice put on the kiosk) when special events are to be held at Evergreen Mills.

Veteran's Park/ Balls Bluff: No update. There was a discussion about hallowed ground, which is said to be the reason horses are not allowed in Balls Bluff. Kelly said Leesburg had no money to develop Veteran's Park.

Franklin Park: Kelly reported six responses to a survey about Franklin Park equestrian concerns. She recently established that she is the person to deal with for equestrian interests at Franklin Park

Virginia National Golf Course: Mary said there are no equestrian possibilities at the former Virginia National Golf Course site. It is open for hiking. Also, it is not in Loudoun County.

Beaverdam Reservoir: Marion reported that she met this morning with NoVA Parks' Dale Riggs to look at the 150 acre property just acquired by NoVA Parks. It is adjacent to the west side of Beaverdam Reservoir, and is accessed via Reservoir Road off Evergreen Mills Road. It is mostly fields and some woods, but currently there are no equestrian trails around the reservoir. Reservoir Road is a long narrow gravel road, which would be difficult to navigate with a horse trailer. It was decided that Marion should talk to Dale again to see if any other access route is feasible now or in the future. Dale also said that the budget for the park was small, so he is looking for volunteer help to develop and maintain the property.

ZOAG (Zoning Ordinance Action Group): Stephanie reported that progress has been made on definitions of equestrian event facilities and of Private Stables and Livery Stables. Kellie Boles attended the ZOAG meeting three weeks ago. Mary said there was a Loudoun County Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night on flood plain zoning changes.

LCEA Website: Kelly said she had talked to Brad, and he is getting more familiar with the LCEA website. He expects to have a Word Press version ready to show Kelly before the next LCEA meeting. Louise said she was impressed by the complexity of another website developed with Word Press. Kelly said she had added a News page to the current LCEA website.

Marketing: Janie suggested that the various hunt trail rides were a good place to interest people in LCEA. Terri offered to write a letter to snail-mail to the local hunts. Kelly plans to re-do the LCEA trifold to make it into a two-sided placard. She and Louise will work together to decide what information to include.

Banner: Stephanie presented three prices for an LCEA banner, and it was decided to order the one that cost \$83 plus \$20 shipping.

Loudoun Times-Mirror Equine Calendar: Mary said that she had talked to Crystal Owens, who said she can't use the equine calendar we provided unless each event contains an address, phone number, website, and start time of the

event, but that they are willing to publish everything we give them. Mid-August is the deadline for the fall/winter calendar. Sheli (and Marion after the meeting) volunteered to help Mary research and supply the additional information.

MARE Center picnics: Kelly said her idea of organizing evening picnics and talks at the MARE Center was dropped because the MARE Center was already hosting picnics with another organization.

Dulles Equine Quarantine Station: Kelly offered LCEA's help in the effort to bring a quarantine station to the Dulles area. She said she would bring up the subject at the next REDC meeting.

Racing at Morven: Kelly said she had talked to Suzanne Musgrave, the head of Morven Park Development. Suzanne said that turf racing was planned for Morven Park. Mary said she was told there would be 8 races in 2016 and 14 in subsequent years Suzanne plans to be at the next LCEA meeting to present future plans for Morven Park.

Future Meetings: The next LCEA meeting will be on Tuesday, August 18, at 9:15 a.m. in the Morven Park Hoffman Classroom.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee