

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – December 15, 2015

Board members attending were: Dorothy Beach, Paula Beckett Bliss, 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 for November 17, 2015 were approved.

Membership: Mary reported that there are 40 individual and 26 business memberships. Kelly said that a number of business memberships are due for renewal in December. The online forms should go to Mary, but she said she had not received the test form that Marion sent. She will check her SPAM file. Kelly said both Jacqui Ross and Janie Rentz are resigning their board membership.

Board Nominations and Elections: It was decided that bios for prospective board members should be submitted to Marion by February 29. Ballots will be sent out March 7 and voting will close March 14. Both Paula and Louise suggested names of people they knew who might be interested in serving on the board.

Treasurer: Stephanie reported that there is \$1279.69 in the LCEA bank account.

Loudoun Equine Survey: Kelly said that a draft copy of the survey had been checked by REDC and sent back to Weldon-Cooper.

LCEA Website: Kelly said that the online membership form was completed. After a discussion, it was decided that the address should be optional and that space for an alternate phone number might be added. Brad wants to implement a generic business form that will self-populate the business listing form. Marion said that there are no January events on the calendar and that it's not possible to go directly from the December calendar to January. It was decided that the large-print link to Loudoun Farms would remain on the LCEA website for the present.

2016 Meeting Dates: Members present approved the following meeting dates and times for 2016: January, April, June, August, October and November – 3rd Tuesday at 9:15; and May, July, September, and December – 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. February 16 is tentatively scheduled at EMC, and March 31 is the annual meeting at the Otium Cellars. Kelly will check to see if the morning meetings can all be held at the Morven Park Hoffman classroom and the evening meetings at the Marshall House Administrative Offices.

Tri-state Tack Sale: LCEA has paid for a table at the Tri-state Tack Sale on February 20 – rain date is February 21. It was decided that LCEA members could bring small items to sell when they were manning the table. Volunteers to man the tables will be decided at the January LCEA meeting.

Loudoun Conservation and Preservation Coalition Festival: Kelly and Stephanie reported successful participation in the event on December 6. Mary will continue to go to the Coalition meetings; Janet goes for Marshall House, and Sheli said she would go also.

Annual Meeting: Kelly's forms for participating businesses and for the public were approved. Board members will each get 20 forms to distribute. It was estimated that there would be room for 30 tables. Terri Young will be asked to do a press release 30 days prior to the meeting and to send it to every local newspaper. It was also suggested that businesses be asked to offer silent auction items at their tables. Sheli said she could get three platters of sandwiches at Costco with the funds allotted, but it was decided that more food is needed.

Joint Presentation with EMC: Possible topics for LCEA's joint presentation with Morven Equine Medical Center on February 16, 2016, were discussed. Morven's suggested topic was "Emergency Services". Mary and Sheli will meet with Morven personnel to develop the program.

Zoning Ordinance Action Group (ZOAG): Kelly said that ZOAG was happy with what LCEA had done for them in terms of definitions for equine events.

Trails: Kelly asked whether LCEA should focus some of its efforts on trails at Oatlands. She also said she had met with Leesburg Park personnel regarding the Potomac Heritage Trail.

Expectations for LCEA in 2016: Mary said that she thought our focus on equestrian business interests did not provide enough to draw the interest of many horse owners. She suggested that we reconsider becoming a 501c3 to focus on establishing an equestrian park using Woodstock in Maryland as an example. Janet said that LCEA as a non-501c3 can do many things that a 501c3 organization cannot do, such as advocate. A further discussion of the limitations of our group to spearhead an effort toward building an equestrian park was discussed as was a general lack of interest in a board member to begin a focus group to study the proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Marion Lee