

LCEA 6/18 meeting minutes

(submitted by substitute secretary Emily Houston)

Board members present: Kelly Foltman, Sheli King, Stephanie Jennings, Louise Cotulla, Marion Lee, Christie Kimberlin and Emily Houston

March meeting minutes: Approved.

Membership report: from Sheli

31 individual members

83 business members

Total: 114 members

Sheli said that business membership counts seem to fluctuate. Stephanie said the annual meeting emails brought in some response. We discussed instituting a plan to gain business members and participants in membership benefits program beginning in the fall.

Treasury report: from Stephanie

The account currently has \$2,908.85 in it.

Brief Expo recap:

Levels of sponsorship, the need for more food, and the issue of charging for tables were briefly discussed, although it was agreed that these subjects warrant greater consideration at a future meeting.

Guest Speaker: Samantha Franklin, new Morven Park Equestrian Facilities Manager

Samantha has a background in the hunter/jumper world. She has begun holding a series of VHSA Associate hunter shows at Morven, and is looking for dates to do schooling jumper shows as well. 51 horses were entered in the first show of the series, which was held in one ring. Morven is still looking to do facilities rentals but is also trying to do bigger weekend shows, and will have less interest in smaller clinics. The Middleburg Classic is moving to the Upperville show grounds. Samantha will be trying not to double book the facility for events, so that only one event will take place at a time. She will probably do some winter schooling shows. After their fall horse trials, their schedule is wide open she said. Samantha agreed with several board members information and prize list for Morven's carriage shows should be easier to find on their website.

Morven only had two people purchase memberships for trail riding. Samantha agreed that this option was difficult to find on the website, and the fact that a reservation is needed has not helped. Kelly suggested making the process more user-friendly.

Morven is no longer requiring orientation rides. Annual passes can be used for arena use and also for trail rides. Ring use continues to require a phone call.

Doug Barnes – Destination Polo -- runs their Polo in the Park and is also doing polo lessons there. The cost of a lesson is \$100.

Emerald Ribbons: report by Kelly

This initiative is now called Loudoun Linear Parks and Trails. It was passed by the BOS. PROS is putting together a separate board to run this, which will include representatives from each of the groups who presented plans.

Aberdeen Property: report by Kelly

Rob Banner is meeting directly with Mayor Fraser, with the goal of producing income from the planting of trees and resulting carbon credits that could go toward building trails and a mountain bike park on the property. A group of LCEA riders and IMBA representatives plan on riding the property to map potential trails.

BOS Candidate Questionnaire

Emily reported that the Coalition is planning a candidates forum. It was agreed that the LCEA should actively participate. Emily has further information on this to present at the next board meeting in July.

Sheli suggested that we should look into having LCEA shirts produced. We could sell them on the website and raffle them at the Expo.

Bylaws and Tax-exempt status: report from Sheli

Sheli has prepared a draft amendment to our bylaws to be make them consistent with our Articles of Incorporation. It was suggested that we could have an officer -- the secretary -- be the "chair" of the nominating committee. Sheli will rework the sentence and send out to the board for an email vote. Stephanie will notify membership of the change in the next newsletter and it will also be put on the website.

Because of our fairly small level of income, LCEA has been in what was described as "IRS limbo." It was agreed that if we are going to seek grants for TLAER training, we will need tax-exempt status, and that it also gives us legitimacy. It was agreed that C6 (a "business league") seems to be the way to go. Sheli says the application "isn't horrific." We need to amend our bylaws as a first step, then complete the application. We voted to move forward with seeking tax-exempt status as a C6. It was agreed that the Executive Board (Kelly, Sheli, Reid and Stephanie) will meet and do the application.

Lovettsville equestrian park:

Kelly reported that construction of rings there is funded, although bids for construction have not gone out yet.

Next meeting: July 16, 7 pm at the Houston's home. It was agreed that Lowry's fried chicken will be the featured item on the menu, with potluck items added.