

Loudoun County Equine Alliance (LCEA) Meeting – April 16, 2019

The meeting began at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Board members present were Kelly Foltman, ~~Louise Cotulla~~, Emily Houston, Stephanie Jennings, Christie Kimberlin, Michelle (Sheli) King, Marion Lee, Reid O'Connor, and ~~Janet Vandervaart~~. Also present for part of the meeting were Chair Phyllis Randall (Loudoun County Board of Supervisors) and her aide Laura TeKrony.

Secretary: Minutes from February 19th meeting were approved.

Treasurer report: Stephanie reported \$3596 in the LCEA treasury.

Membership report: Sheli reported 80 business members and 20 individual members.

Election of board and new executive board:

The following board members were elected to another two-year term, expiring in 2021:

- Kelly Foltman
- Stephanie Jennings
- Marion Lee
- Louise Cotulla
- Sheli King
- Janet Vandervaart

The following executive officers were elected:

- Kelly Foltman - President
- Sheli King - Vice-President
- Stephanie Jennings - Treasurer
- Reid O'Connor - Secretary

Emerald Ribbons/PROS update:

Kelly updated the Board on other organizations joining the project and presenting their thoughts on multiuser trails at the last meeting, including bike enthusiasts, USTR, walking groups, Loudoun Water, and COLT (Coalition of Loudoun Towns). The next public meeting is at 7pm on Thursday, April 25th at the Parks and Recreation office. Kelly reported on the evolution of the “stream valley corridor concept”. While all the trails may not be able to join together as one big unit, the current goal is to have distance trails with loops coming together.

Kelly suggested working with wineries and breweries, as well as local business with requests for 100 foot corridors, pitching the economic benefits produced by trail traffic. Emily suggested possible involvement in the project from the Waterford Area, specifically from the Waterford Foundation. Currently locations for possible acquisition and improvement that were discussed included the Potomac Heritage Trail, Algonquian, WO&D, and trails to Harper’s Ferry. Morven

Park is not currently in the mix as they charge their own fees, but could be an optional ad-on. The committee and Chair Randall discussed the need for appropriate signage on multiuser trails, specifically with reference to horse trailer parking. The need to convince NOVA Parks and the Town of Leesburg to be more horse-friendly was discussed. Banshee Reeks was identified as an achievable first step toward progress. Chair Randall committed to making inquiries and getting an initial response back to LCEA by Friday (April 26). Emily inquired about the process for land acquisition and suggested the involvement of land trusts. Kelly suggested negotiating with developers and businesses as opposed to conservationists or private landowners.

Also addressed were the Aberdeen Property in Purcellville and the Lovettsville Park. Kelly said the next meeting for the Aberdeen property is next week and that there appears to be funding for a large ring for the Lovettsville Park.

TLAER update:

The Board agreed that LCEA needs to be the lead on the TLAER project. Janet will continue to spearhead. Kelly requested the Board schedule a meeting to allocate responsibility for the project. Shelli addressed the budget. She suggested evaluating financials based on likely sponsors and grants. Kelly said she felt positive about a possible grant from the VA Horse Industry Board

Chair Randall addressed the fund raising and grant process changes in the County. Her office will be sending the Board information on applications for County funding for TLAER. She also suggested that the County might sponsor a few rescuers for training.

Chair Randall addressed LCEA and suggested being stronger in requests for funding and support. She recommended making LCEA more present at Board of Supervisors meetings and specifically working to raise awareness of the supervisors in the eastern part of the county.

Kelly addressed the survey about our economic impact, the geographic discrepancy in the survey results, and possible underestimation.

Annual meeting in May:

Reid confirmed the May 21st date of the Annual Meeting at the National Sporting Library & Museum. Stephanie will arrange the insurance for the event. Reid will reach out to Greenhill Winery regarding wine sales for the event. Sheli volunteered to order food for the event through Wegmans. Kelly to provide plates, napkins, and other disposables. The timeline for the meeting was set, with Kelly to give introductory remarks and then to be followed by the NSLM Curator who will speak about current exhibitions. Reid will send Stephanie information on the current exhibitions for the invitations.

Comp. Plan speakers:

Sheli has drafted two letters that designate Kelly as speaking on behalf of LCEA at the April 24 meeting. Emily will also be speaking at the April 24 meeting and Sheli will be speaking at the April 27 meeting.

Expo recap:

The Expo recap be discussed in the June meeting along with details from the May (Annual) Meeting.

New Business:

Chair Randall addressed the possibility of the candidate's forum and expressed she would rather LCEA bring questions to the other forums (she will be attending 3). She recommended LCEA put together a questionnaire to send to candidates, especially those running "At Large," and in the Blue Ridge, and Catoctin districts. The questionnaire should go out by the end of June with a set deadline for response.

Shelli addressed the need to further investigate applying for a 501c status. The Board agreed this would help to procure grants.

Emily brought up the *Horse Times* ad and article to profile the Expo and other projects. She suggested that LCEA pay for a third-party to write the article. Stephanie and Emily each suggested a contact they will reach out to with a \$100 stipend. The Board agree the ad should be a thank you to those who attended the Expo.

Sheli will be sending a survey of the Expo out to all attendees.