

April 2016

Prairie Fire Farms Foundation Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm

Attendees: – Kathy, Dana, Bobby, Lesley, Suzanne, Melissa, Renee, Emily, Dee McHugh, Cindy

Adoption of Minutes

Suzanne made a motion to adopt as submitted the February & March Minutes. Dana 2nd the motion. All approved.

Lesley asked the board members if we could stop printing paper copies of the minutes since we are sending to the board beforehand. The board was in favor of this, just requested that one copy be available at a meeting in the event we need to reference them. Lesley said she would also have a copy with her at the meetings.

Treasurers Report –

\$5.00 Savings Account

\$931.16 in Winnies Way – some of this money was used to purchase the new jumps

\$419.00 in Running for Rescues Account

\$285.15 – Reclaiming the Reins Account

\$137.98 – Checking Account

\$10,000 – Loan Balance Due – no available funds at this point from the loan

There was a discussion about the issues we are having with Met-Ed on the property. The electric bills for the past 3 months have been roughly \$300.00, this is extremely high and Lesley has been working with Met-Ed to see if we can get an audit of the property done. The house is seeing higher than normal electric bills as well so we think there is something going on with the electricity at the facility.

Reclaiming the Reins Update

Dana reported that the 3-day trial went very well. She thanked everyone that participated. She, Emily & bobby learned a lot and will make some changes based on the trials but feel they are ready to proceed with things. The Survey has not been sent out to anyone yet, as soon as Dana completes she will send out.

At this point they are waiting for their 501 application to be completed and sent off, the issue is the cost which is roughly \$850.00. As soon as they can get the funds from Bingo they will be mailing and will be able to at least state they are pending. Because the 501 is not done they are unable to apply for many grants, although Emily informed them that with a pending status they can apply and might get some grants. This is the issue with starting the program in full because of the funding, they can't build on that component until there are funds available to cover the costs.

Dana is currently looking into whether or not they can do some wellness programs that businesses would sponsor at locations off-site.

Past Events

Dee gave an update on the Bingo events that were held at Progress Fire Hall and delivered a check in the amount of \$1137.80, which will be split between PFFF & RTR. The amount we made at the event was closer to \$1400.00, but the hall took fees for bartender, equipment, prizes off the top and we get the balance. Progress was very happy with the event, they said it was the best one they have had and would like to do another month in the fall.

Yellow Breeches students were at the farm in March, they seemed to enjoy coming to work. There were 3 groups of students, they cleaned stalls and water buckets, helped move the jumps off the trailers, cleaned waterers outside, and helped Emily with the mats in Bud & Nikos Stalls.

Milton Hershey students were at the farm this past Sunday, there were 17 students and 2 advisors. They cleaned stalls, washed water buckets, put the donated shampoo we received away, painted the new jumps, picked up and organized the wood that was laying around the property. The advisor was in discussion with both Emily and Lesley about the fundraiser in May, the Winnie's Way Scholarship Program we are holding in May, and the possibility of doing some team building for students and possibly employees at Milton Hershey through Reclaiming the Reins.

Future Events

DC Tech veterinary program will be coming to the farm on April 19th for a field trip. Emily will be discussing vet type things with the group and then they will be able to watch our vet give annual spring shots and her associate do some of the horse's teeth checkups.

Cumberland Valley FFA will be coming to the farm on April 28th from 3:45-6:30 to do a mini field trip/community service project. We are having them build a fire pit near the pond that can be used for birthday parties that we have on site, the reclaiming the reins program, etc.

New Bloomfield Pony Rides are April 30th from 11-1 at this point Cindy is attending. Emily needs to find someone to be a back up to drive the truck and trailer. She may possibly be on fowl watch and we need to make sure someone else can do this event if she is. Renee said she would go and could learn how to drive the truck and trailer. Dana and Liz would attend if they were absolutely needed, if not she would like to back out. Emily was checking on the possibility of Gaiage attending as well.

Grants

Cindy gave an updated report that we have submitted for 2 educational grants, 2 operating expense grants, Tony Stewart Foundation Nomination letter from Cindy to see if we can apply for a grant, and the Binky Foundation for a manure spreader.

Emily asked about the meachum grant for the compost system and this has not been done yet so Emily and Lesley need to get Cindy more information.

Dana also asked for information on the manure spreader and the compost system. She has a co-worker that is into the eco stuff and she thinks she might be able to help us

Barn Operations

Lesley asked Bobby what his intent was regarding Duke. We currently have him on "loan" from the Standardbred association but we need to make a decision about him since RACE Fund is no longer paying for him. We have to submit paperwork to the Standardbred Association by the end of the month and inform them how we are proceeding. There was some discussion about contacting the association and telling them now that Bobby would be adopting him in June and does PFFF adopt him and then Bobby from us. The board was not comfortable with that in the event something happens and Bobby can't adopt him then we are dealing with Duke and his payments. At this point the board would like Bobby to do a half lease (\$200.00) for May and then adopt him in June, Bobby was agreeable to that. Lesley will contact the Standardbred association and let them know that we have someone who has been paying for his vet, farrier, wormer etx and is now half leasing him and would like to adopt in June.

GoGo as everyone was informed earlier in the month, he has a weak ligament and is not rideable. We need to find him a home. Emily has been talking to a few people and still has 3 avenues which she is pursuing. We are waiting to do a post about him until she hears back from these people. Melissa asked if we can do an adoption fee and Emily stated that it would be minimal at this point and we would not be able to charge for all of the training that has been done since he is not rideable.

Patrick there was a large discussion about Patrick and what we do since Carrie his owner is not able to pay for him starting May 1st. Lesley reminded everyone several times that as tough as this is and as much as we like Patrick he is not a foundation horse, he is privately owned and at the end of the day if the owner cannot pay the board we cannot take responsibility. Emily commented that Patrick has done every well for us in Lessons and Pony rides in the past, but he needs to retire and enjoy life at this point. Carrie wants to donate him to us and we don't have room, she has already been informed of that by Emily. At this point he board needs to decide how to proceed with this situation. Dana made a motion to notify Carrie that if Patricks board has not been paid by May 1st we are giving her notice that Patrick has to be removed from the property by May 13th which is 30 days from day of notice. (she will be getting a letter mailed to her tomorrow by Lesley). If she pays in May that's fine, if he leaves on the 13th then she will owe us for the those days at \$14.00 a day which is the pro rata amount. Renee second the

motion. Kathy Abstained from the vote, all others approved. Lesley will send Carrie a certified letter on the 13th.

Dana asked that individuals who smoke on the property to please make sure they take care of their cigarette butts and not throw them all over the place. Emily asked that we designate the fire pit that is being built by the FFA kids be the designated smoking area and we make sure that individuals who smoke do it there in the future.

Cindy brought up that there are no fire extinguishers at the barn. Lesley will handle she has a contact that will get us them for free.

Old Business

Update on Lauren/James Issue...Lauren has the paperwork we are just waiting for her to sign and return to us.

Emily and Lesley met with the owner of the property about the future. The meeting went well the owner is agreeable to discussing a long term lease, rent to own, outright purchase. We discussed that we would create a business plan and get it to him to see how we can make it work, for our guarantee about the property and for grant purposes. Lesley contacted the owners' wife to get financial information and haven't heard back yet since they are on vacation. As soon as we get information and start working on that Lesley and Emily will be keeping the board updated.

PayPal this was a follow discussion from last month regarding the 3% fee that we are being forced to pay when individuals pay us from credit card to our bank account. The situation was explained that in PayPal if you pay us from bank account to bank account there is no fee. If you pay us from credit card to bank account, there is a fee and should we be required to pay that fee as we have been. Bobby made a motion that effective June 1st if individual choses to pay with PayPal and does the credit card to our bank account option they are going to be required to add 3% onto their bill to cover the fee. Dana second the motion. All approved.

Lesley brought up the topic of if we wanted to do the fireworks tent this year. We discussed it last year, and had some questions. Cindy emailed the company and we got no response back. The board decided that we need the answers to those questions in order to make a decision. Lesley will send those questions to Cindy again and if we don't hear back from them by the next board meeting we will vote on whether we move forward.

There was a large debate/discussion regarding the strangles vaccine. Lesley asked the board to make a decision regarding whether our facility as a whole should get the strangles vaccine this year. We need to make a barn policy so we know and Emily (who normally makes these decisions on her own) is not able or willing to base on the situation that happened last year with Mya and Apollo. There was a big discussion between Renee, Dana, Lesley and Emily about statistics regarding what happened to Apollo and is that the norm and Emily explained to Renee what happened last year and why we feel that this isn't maybe a good thing. Cindy stated as a horse owner she does not want Ginger to get this vaccine,

Dana will not give it to Luna based on her experience. Emily said that if this is the policy then the owners that don't want the vaccine have to sign off that they opted not to and we would not be held responsible if something happens. There were a lot of questions regarding strangles and how it works from renee and she asked if she could investigate and do research about it. Bobby made a motion to table the vote until next month. All approved.

Lesley asked the board how they felt about not doing off-site birthday parties anymore. We would still do big offsite events, but not the small birthday parties at people's homes. We would only offer those services at the barn. Renee asked questions regarding how much money we made last year on pony rides, are they beneficial, do we just want to stop doing them because we don't like to do them. Emily said that if we as a board continue to do them someone else would have to learn how to do truck and trailer. We are the only facility in the area that does off site rides. Based on the questions that renee was asking we tabled the discussion until next month when she can get figures and everyone can make an informed decisions.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 pm