

Equestrians Institute Board Meeting

24 February 2018

Attendees: Merridy, Diane, Gunn, Trish, Kathryn, Meika, Penny

Absent: Sarah, Jo, Chris, Laurie

Location: Conference Call due to inclement weather

Call to order: 3:03 PM

Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion made and passed to approve the January board minutes.

Discussion was held re: naming draft minutes differently so that it will be easier to tell versions apart. Unapproved minutes will be called draft and will have a version stamp. Approved minutes will have the meeting date timestamp and no other indicator.

New Web Site

Email status report on the new site was reviewed. Immediate need for 2-3 high resolution photos from each division. Email to Rebecca or put them in the Drop Box. Merridy, Gunn, Meika, and Laurie have been assigned the task.

Also check the existing website to confirm division clinics and show dates are accurate.

The new site is expected to launch in March. There will be some site downtime during cutover and details will be communicated.

Division Reports

General Fund

General Fund budget and 2017 actuals was reviewed. In 2017 the overall loss was \$1,423 due to lower membership numbers.

2018 membership is about 30 behind this same time last year. Kathryn volunteered to draft an eFlash for membership renewal "call to action".

2018 budget is based on 2017 membership levels. Changes to 2018 expenses budgeting include the web site redesign (\$2,500) and reductions in postage and storage. Net loss of \$2,350 is projected.

General fund has \$28,000 in checking and savings combined

Motion made to approve budget. Motion passed.

Dressage

Budgets for 2018 shows were reviewed. Show budgets are conservative and based of 2017 show entry estimates. Projections are net gains of \$1,600 for Beaujolais and \$2,600 from Champagne. The show committee is optimistic that show entries will be better than planned due to the following:

- 1) Meadow Wood is not hosting any recognized shows in 2018
- 2) EI won a \$4,000 prize money grant from High Performance Dressage Foundation. This grant will allow EI to offer prize money for high point score from both Beaujolais and Champagne shows.

Show committee has actively discussed how to attract more people to the shows. Will target more sponsorship dollars than last year. Will actively pursue last year's Meadow Wood sponsors. Will continue to manage expenses by using a farrier that won't charge for being on site during the shows as well as using a local judge for the lower level rides if a 3rd judge is needed.

Schooling shows are the same budget as previous years.

Three clinics are planned. Jan Ebeling clinics will be held in May and December. Ann Gribbons will be held in October. Clinic fee will go up to \$350/day to cover costs.

Overall budget is projected to lose \$7,431.

Discussion covered the following:

- Prize money grant to be added to the budget as a pass through. List grant income and prize expense.
- Dressage lost \$17,000 in 2017. Will there be cash flow issues if need to prepay for expenses and cash balance is unable to cover them. Board is requesting that this be watched very closely this year.
- Dressage Division added that strong consideration was given to the question of continuing to do recognized shows. The show committee ultimately felt that if not, then the division is irrelevant.

With amendment of adding in the grant money as income and expense, motion to approve the Dressage budget was made. Motion passed.

Eventing –

Dates for shows have been revised. At the USEA Area 7 meeting, EI and Aspen Farms agreed to switch dates in the fall. Aspen wanted the later date whereas EI wanted the earlier date for more daylight (meaning more rides.) The fall EI Show will be Sept 7-9. Division will update the information on the web site as well as for insurance coverage.

RE: Area 7 Championships, EI will put in its bid for 2020, instead of 2019 as previously reported. The Washington State Horse Park received money to build an indoor arena with an estimated completion date of 2019. Waiting for 2020, EI expects the new arena would be available for "showjumping under the lights" - wine and cheese while watching the horses jump. Bidding on 2020 championships will also give EI time to get the championship XC courses built out. The XC courses for open and championship classes need to be different.

Driving

Clinic registration is open, and it is already 50% filled.

Date of first event has been pushed back to allow the venue to keep boarders longer and to avoid the need to mow the field for EI.

Venue is also logging tracts of its property, which is impacting part of the course.

Sporthorse Breeding

Since neither of the Sporthorse Breeding directors called into the meeting, the division's budget will be reviewed at the March meeting.

2018 Fund Raising Update

No action taken yet on Amazon Smile.

Action Plans for 2018 Board

Poker Ride Fun Day – Penny will check if September 29 is available at the Washington State Horse Park. Adding a hunter pace was suggested for additional fundraising.

W9s – Gunn reported that all W9s were submitted.

Other business –

- Trailer insurance – discussion again about what we could or could not insure as equipment. Gunn clarified that EI trailers towed by an individual are covered by the insurance of the tow vehicle. EI will reimburse the individual for this expense. Gunn will ask for clarification about equipment stored in parked trailers or in containers. Is damage or theft covered by EI insurance or the insurance of the location storing the equipment (such as the Washington State Horse Park or private homeowner.) Each division should estimate its cost of equipment in order to evaluate risk of loss versus cost of insurance.
- Next meeting will be a conference call on March 31st. Agenda topics will be the Sporthorse budget and poker ride/drive.

Adjourned: 4:24 PM