Mounted Eagles Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2014

Super 8 Hotel

**Present:** Lynn Fairbanks, Cheryl Triplett, Sandy Strom-Gieseke, Deb Griffin, and Lise Lunde

Guest: Lynn Hanson

Cheryl T called meeting to order at 6:25 pm. There was not a quorum for the meeting.

**Agenda:**  The agenda was presented by Cheryl T and reviewed by the board.

**Mounted Eagle Minutes:**  The February minutes were presented with suggested modifications. The minutes will be tabled for approval at the April meeting.

**Financial Report:**The financial report will be tabled for review at the April meeting.

**Executive Directors Report:**  Lynn F presented the following reports:

Special Olympics: Special Olympics will take place at Spirit Horse Center on July 19, 2014. Susie Bailiff will be responsible for organization of riders, horses and leaders. One of the board members will be responsible for concessions.

Equine Assistant Position: Kristina Beckman inquired whether she would be eligible for a raise due to the lack of working hours during the months December- February. Her hours were reduced due to multiple cancellations due to weather.  The board members discussed possibility of her spending additional hours with horse training in the upcoming months to help with her as her salary has been budgeted for 2014.

Initiative Foundation: Lynn will be spending time this week at a free workshop with the Initiative Foundation. The focus of the workshop is program improvement.

Lynn F will be out of town from March 13-March 18. She will deposit funds in the bank prior to her departure.

**Old Business:**

Window Clings: Lynn F informed board that window clings have been ordered.

Horses:  The horses have had more than expected time off due to the weather. May need some additional conditioning training time.

Cookie Sales:  Cheryl T informed board that there might be some difficulty with cookie delivery this year. She would need to store cookies and pre-order cookies from our previous vender. She has not had to do this in the past. She did research alternative companies to purchase cookies from including Best-Made cookies. This company had cookies that may have healthier ingredients and some alternative options for flavors. She is waiting for prices currently. She brought samples for the board to sample. It was agreed that the cookies were comparable.

One issue with Best-Made cookies would be packaging. The cookies come in boxes with 180-200 cookies/box. There would be a need to re-bag cookies into smaller packages of 36 cookies. There would need to be a time and place to do the re-bagging. She will update the board in the near future.

A Night with the Stars: Deb G and Lynn H provided the board with an update on plans for A Night with the Stars. Deb G has researched Maddens, Grand View, Craguns and Arrowood Lodge. The reported that Maddens was too expensive, there was no return call from Grand View and Craguns would be available depending on date requested.

Her initial discussion with the Arrowood Lodge was very interesting and promising. They had one date – September 20 were the room would be available in the evening for a cost of $50 due to the fact that there was already a daytime event scheduled. The fee would include use of the room, supporting staff and tables. There is a dance floor in the room. The food would include appetizers prepared by Arrowood staff. The cost for the food would be based on cost/piece. The total cost for food with a goal of 150 attendees would be $1944. The hours of the event would be from 7 – 10 pm.

Deb G outlined job assignments for event including:

    Public Community Group presentations: Deb G, Lynn F and Lynn H.

    Master of Ceremonies: Mel S

    Posters and Tickets production: Mel S

    Publicity – local publications: Sandy S-G

               Radio: Lynn F and Lise L if needed

    Ticket Sales: all board members

    Baskets: Lise L and Mel S

    Registration at event: Lise L with assistance from volunteers

    Decorating: Aggie S and Jan M (were volunteered in absentia)

Set up would take place at 2 pm the day of the event with Silent Auction set up. Clean up would occur that evening. All board members were encouraged to help.

Lynn H indicated that her husband’s band would perform and would add some new dance music.

Lise L has discussed event with Spirit Dance and they may be interested, depending on the date.

Deb G distributed “thank you” cards for board members to write out at the meeting. These cards will be distributed that evening to all attendees.

Silent Auction discussion:  There was discussion about some changes in silent auction. Deb G recommended that there be 4 money collectors and 2 runner/collector to facilitate more timely movement through the cashier. Items would be distributed alphabetically. There was also the suggestion to include more male oriented items.

A variety of additional activities were explored with a focus on having “celebrities” of the night interacting with attendees. The board agreed to purchase and additional celebrity poster standup for the photographs.

Deb G will initiate follow up with Arowwood.

January Ride Schedule: Item will be tabled until later in the year.

**New Business:**

County Fair Booth: The board revisited having a booth at the county fair. After discussion of the time commitment and benefit to the program it was decided not to pursue this for 2014.

Brat Sales: Board discussed researching whether having a Mounted Eagle Brat Sale at local grocery stores this summer. The information that presented included:

    Super One cannot commit to date earlier than 2 to 3 weeks before event due to upcoming plans for reconstruction. They do not donate any items of food.

    Cub is a possibility. They do not donate food items.

    Coburn’s (Little Falls). Cheryl T will check on details.

Lynn F suggested researching whether a grocery-bagging day at one of the grocery stores may be a fundraiser. She stated that her experience is that having program participants involved with bagging brings in much more money than having adult volunteers.

She agreed to look into more details.

Annual membership meeting: The April board meeting is the annual membership meeting. The board agreed that The Northwind Grille would be a better meeting site. Cheryl T will check on availability. The meeting will be on Monday April 14.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lise Lunde, Secretary