Mounted Eagles

Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2014

**Present:** Lynn Fairbanks, Cheryl Triplett, Sandy Strom-Gieseke, Lise Lunde, Aggie Stroot, Deb Griffin, Mel Salzl

Meeting was called to order by Cheryl T at 6:20 pm.

Aggie S made motion to approve agenda. Second was made by Deb G. Motion was approved.

Aggie S made motion to approve September and October minutes. Second was made by Deb G. Motion was approved.

**Financial Report:**

Aggie S informed board that Mounted Eagles account was closed at Wells Fargo and that new account was opened at Lakes State Bank.

Review of financials presented by Aggie S show cash available - $17,515

Discussion:

There was discussion about increasing riders’ fees to assist with program income as the fees have not been increased for a number of years. There has been no mention at this time of increasing the board fees at Spirit Horse Center.

Salary for equine assistant position will no longer be an expense as Christina has resigned from position.

Request for comparison of bank account showed that account in 2013 was $19,000 and 2014 was $17,517.

Riders’ fees $17,000 of $35,500 projected for the year.

Lise L made motion to approve financial report. Second was made by Deb G. Motion was approved.

**Executive Directors Report:**

Lynn F updated board on promotional activities which include:

United Way promotion in October of Mounted Eagles. Crow Wing County has been largest donator to United Way. Lynn F had opportunity to do presentation about Mounted Eagles to the Crow Wing County Highway workers. She also worked with United Way doing a Community Focus interview on the radio and a TV spot.

Nisswa Chamber: Lynn will be giving a presentation on Mounted Eagles to the Chamber and will thank them for their support on joint ventures including the Turtle Races.

Lynn F has received a request that veterinary evaluation be scheduled for Cami due to ongoing issues with stiffness and foot pain. The board had approved this by email communication and Lise L will schedule appointment with Dr Matt Stahl.

Grant from Mille Lacs Electric is pending at this time. Crow Wing Power Grant has shown up in Accounts Receivable and we are waiting for receipt of the money as an announcement was published in the Echo that the monies were given to us.

**Volunteer Report:**

A volunteer orientation was held on 11/12 with one new volunteer. Sean has been active in Special Olympics and hopes to spend some time with Mounted Eagles.

Cheryl T has been working to arrange volunteer orientation for a few other potential volunteers.

**Old Business:**

January riding schedule was discussed by the board. Pros and cons of not scheduling riding during this month was discussed in detail and included financial repercussions, volunteer hours, paid staff hours and rider satisfaction. Deb G made motion to continue ride schedule in January. Aggie S made second. The motion was approved.

There was also discussion of eliminating two cancellations per year for each rider due the the 6 week on 2 week off schedule. Deb G made motion to eliminate 2 cancellations per year for each rider. Second was made by Mel S. The motion was approved.

It was agreed that riders not able to do ground work can be excluded from riding days but in general this needs to re-evaluated. Aggie made a motion that a “ 2015 Riders Letter” will be sent out with schedule for next year. There will be clarification of riding/non riding activities. The letter will also include an update stating that there will no longer be two cancellations per year for each rider. Second was made by Lise L. Motion was approved.

Horse Search continues. The committee has looked and several horses but either they have not met our requirements or have been sold. Committee will continue search.

Staci G has volunteered to consider assisting in funding if needed for a new horse.

**Fundraisers;**

Night with the Stars: There was discussion about the need for additional help with planning committee if event is held in 2015.

Cookie/Soup sales: Change in packaging and price of cookies occurred this year. Cheryl T shared that there has been difficulty with ordering process this year and will not pursue repeating fundraiser next year.

**New Business:**

Lynn F presented opportunity to have an internship for early 2015 to assist with Equine Assistant since the position has been vacated. Samantha Sykes has inquired about arranging an internship with Mounted Eagles starting in January as part of her education for Animal Science and Equine Therapy. The internship would run from January- April and would include 600 hours. She has familiarity with PATH. Discussion of offering her a stipend took place. The board was enthusiastic about this opportunity. Lise L made motion to offer internship stipend of $250 per month. Second was made by Mel S. Motion was approved.

Board member recruitment was discussed. Lise L, Mel S and Sandy S-G will be leaving the board in 2015. Aggie S suggested that each board member approach an individual in the next month to recruit for new members.

PATH site certification will be taking place in 2015.

Riders’ Banquet will be scheduled for Jan 12 or 19. The board discussed looking into Connie’s Kitchen as a site to hold banquet. Cheryl T will check into this.

New helmets are needed for the program. It may be possible to obtain funding from the Minnesota Horse Council to purchase 10 to 12 helmets.

Volunteer Quarterly training topics were discussed. It was felt that the last session was not applicable to Mounted Eagles program. Topics presented for future training included:

Grooming and tacking

First Aid and emergency procedures

Riding instruction that can be used by volunteers with participants

Updates on disabilities and physical therapy

Aggie S made a motion that the volunteer training and scheduled topics be set by the board in 2015. Second was made by Lise L. Motion was approved.

Nonprofit mailing fees of $220 for 2015 was approved.

Deb G made motion to adjourn. Second was made by Sandy S-G. Motion was approved.

Next meeting will be on December 8, 2014

Respectfully submitted

Lise Lunde

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