

Equestrian Institute Board Meeting – 21 February 2016

Bellevue Public Library, Bellevue WA

Present – Laurie, Trish, Diane, Merridy, Sarah, Gunn, Chris, Meika (phone), Penny

Called to order – 3:13 PM

Agenda

- 1) Review and approval of minutes from January board meeting
 - 2) Reports from each division - including 2016 budgets for review and approval, if ready
 - 3) Board Action Plans for 2016 Board
 - a. Ways to increase general fund revenue
 - b. Ways to increase volunteers and sharing of volunteers cross divisions
 - c. Ways to increase cross division involvement
 - d. Awards and recognition – by division, across EI, or both
 - 4) Equestrian Extraordinaire – sponsorships?
 - 5) 2016 website updates
 - 6) USEF vaccination rules – how do we incorporate?
 - 7) Ideas for speaker at annual meeting
 - 8) Other business
-

Meeting Minutes Review

Minutes from the January board meeting were reviewed and approved with the change of “Offsite 2016” being changed to “offsite 2015”.

Division Reports

Eventing

Reviewed 2016 budget and discussed the following:

- EI tax estimated for 400 riders at EI Shows. Will revise the corrected summary numbers for net loss/gain estimated.
- \$10,000 set aside for the Washington State Horse Park sound system has been carried over for a number of years. There is now a plan as to where the hard wire will be buried and there are plans to move forward towards it.
- Peter Gray clinic lost money as there was misunderstandings as to what was paid for or not yet paid for. EI had to pay his fee and travel expenses. Meika was disappointed in the level of teaching for the amateur group.
- Year-end awards will be added as a budget line item

Budget approved with the additions of \$5 per rider EI “tax” and Year End awards.

Sporthorse Breeders

Reviewed 2016 budget with comparison of 2015 income and expenses. Discussed the following:

- Will look to again secure decent levels of sponsorship in 2016
- Shows are based on income from entries. Expect 40 horses per show though entries might increase to the low 50s.
- Project a \$600 loss and will work to mitigate this by managing air fare and hotel costs to close the gap.

Budget approved.

Dressage

Anne Gribbons 3-day clinic budget was reviewed and approved. The following was reported:

- Clinic is set for July 11-13 at Bear Creek Farm in Woodinville
- Expenses were details and the clinic priced accordingly. Expect 8 riders and hoping for 20 auditors. EI members can register at a discounted rate.
- A reception dinner is being planned. While a sponsor is being sought to cover some of the event, the price will cover costs.

Grants will be given for only EI clinics. Grants are expected to be dispersed as follows: \$500 grants to 1 – Open member, 1 Junior / Young Rider, 2 Adult Amateur.

Dressage Foundation Grant was applied for in order to help defray costs for one of the EI clinics. Our grant application was denied.

Division is still looking for a volunteer coordinator.

General Fund

Reviewed 2016 with comparison of actuals 2010-2015 and approved budget. The following was reported:

- Expenses are estimated to continue 2015 levels.
- Estimate division support will be \$2,000 each from eventing and dressage
- Membership dues are ahead of plan. This is attributed to reminder notices being sent to those who haven't renewed in the last 2 years. A 3rd reminder will be send in March.

Year-end checking balance = \$8,265, Savings = \$20,618

Driving

Event planning is proceeding on pace. First event is TREC with 25 entries to date. Contracts are signed for venue. Clinicians are signed up.

Board Action Plans for 2016 Board

Increase General Fund Revenue

Each division has a plan for implementing the \$5 fee per non-member at events.

Increase Number of and Sharing of Volunteers across Divisions

The following actions were discussed and decided:

- Volunteer coordinators for each division were identified.
- Flyer to be updated with image for Sporthorse and clarification of a volunteer “day” = 4-8 hours.
- Gunn will look at the tax implications of a gas card for volunteers.
- Approved Volunteer Extraordinaire Award flyer and application form.
- Flyer to be posted at each EI clinic and event.

Increase Cross Division Involvement

Discussion focused on participation in the Washington State Horse Park (WSHP) Play Day on July 23/24.

Particulars of the conversation included the following:

- WSHP had a Kick It Up event. It was a full event but didn't get a lot of attendance.
- The Play Day organizer was hoping EI would sponsor and manage one or more activities. Concerns about over committing were discussed as were conflicting events (such as the Event at Rebecca Farms for the eventing division).
- Suggestions included a “Ride and Review” on Saturday with a Dressage ride on Sunday, driving demo of tack up and driving derby, pleasure pace course that could be done by anyone on a horse or in a carriage, eventing demo of the sports 3 phases.
- Audience is the each other and the horse community in general.
- Driving representative expressed concerns about other horses freaking out about the carriages during the demo or on course.

Next steps included Eventing (Penny) seeing if an eventing demo and hunter pace were feasible to commit to as well as Driving asking if a driving demo was something that division could commit to.

Awards and Recognition by Division and/or across EI

Reported on steps taken toward establishing the Equestrian Extraordinaire Award. Diane had sent a note to Carrots regarding sponsorship of this award but had not heard back yet. Next steps are to publicize via Flying Changes and the EI web site.

2016 Website Updates

Diane asked all to review the information and submit needed changes.

Sporthorse Breeding reported that the mobile navigation link was missing for its division and the main page buttons on the right hand site needed to be updated.

All divisions need to provide more recent photos.

Reminder was given to use eFlashes, Facebook, and to keep the website up to date. Division directors and their next in command can post to Facebook.

USEF Vaccination Rules

Reviewed how each division was incorporating USEF vaccination rules into events. The following ere reported:

- Eventing - Will inform that is USEA/USEF rule and advise as to how to comply. Might do spot checks in the future. Will post it on Facebook and on the web site. The decision was made after the prize list was sent for publication.
- Dressage – Put it on the prize list in red font (on page 7)
- Driving – Will review and decide how to phrase it on the prize list.
- Sporthorse – Following similar language to Dressage. Will include in the confirmation and welcome emails.

Annual Meeting Speakers

Ideas for a speaker at annual meeting were offered. Agreement was reached for Penny to approach Hank Greenwald to talk about equine first aid. Further conversation led to agreement about offering a first aid kit as an EI fund raiser.

Other Business

Dressage needs a new volunteer sign up system. Eventing referred Gunn to Heidi Hansen.

Gunn reported on a new process for Payment of Officials that will be PII compliant. (PII is personally identifiable information.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:18PM