

## **Back Country Horsemen of Kansas Board Meeting, via online**

**July 16, 2023**

In Attendance: Stephanie Huss, Diana Skinner, Cheryl Thomas, Sheila Watkins, Kyle and Laura Smyth, Bill Racy, Donna Marotta and Pattie Stalder (not present: Catherine Crites and Rosie Sweeten)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by President Stephanie Huss

1. Approval of Minutes: Sheila moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Diana. motion passed.
2. Treasurer's Report provided by Sheila Watkins - beginning balance was \$8,735.56; current balance \$7,301.83; approved as submitted.
3. Vice President Report: Laura Ward-Smyth; good turnout at Pomona ride, Lake Scott ride will be July 22-23 and Big Hill on August 26-27.
4. National Committee Reports
  - a. Public Lands by Jim Thomas; nothing at this time as they have a meeting tomorrow.
  - b. Expansion by Diana Skinner; discussion on adding "Why I Should Join Benefits" document being added to our website. Laura will provide it. She suggested providing membership cards so members can take advantage of the benefits offered. Laura and Steph will work on creating cards for 2024.
  - c. Marketing and Media by Pattie Stalder; nothing new.
  - d. Membership by Sheila Watkins; 83 individual, 61 family, 106 trails advocate which includes 55 new members for 2023.
  - e. Volunteer Hours by Cheryl Thomas; a few reports have been submitted but most will come at the end of the year.
5. State Committee Reports - none
6. Chapter Reports
  - a. Sunflower – Jim is spraying lespedeza at Eisenhower, Perry has had several workdays and will be adding an arena, at Pomona Ken did a lot of work preparing trails for the recent BCHKS ride. Clinton has no known work being done currently.
    - i. Diana reported that Tim Shields said Garmin wants to help with trail maintenance on all KS horse trails. They need maps of all the trails. It was suggested that they be provided with the Equestrian Trails in Kansas guidebook.
  - b. Big Hill –The Corps will put a potable water hydrant in Timber Hill Park with funds donated from the endurance ride going to the water line and horse trough. A 79 year old woman fell from the mounting block while dismounting at Chucks campground and ultimately died from her injury. BCHKS will donate a tree as a memorial to be planted this fall.
  - c. Tuttle Creek – annual ride was held in June with below average attendance but after expenses \$1200 was raised from the auction and registrations. Park Manager reported that the grant for pens is no longer an option as it was for motorized trails only but Linda Lanterman has stated that she is working to provide funds for pens at Randolph Area of Tuttle Creek State Park.

- d. Chisholm Trail – workday was cancelled due to rain, next meeting scheduled for Aug. 12.
  - e. Saddle Ridge – Hillsdale received a \$15,000 grant for equestrian trails. Tim Shields has been working on trails. Park manager has plans to add a primitive campsite and hitching posts at the “Lone Elm” for trails to the south and west of the lake. There should be a new toilet at Saddle Ridge by the end of August. They have a new PayPal account and will host Murder Mystery on Oct. 7
7. Old Business
- a. Laura moved that Diana purchase 500 new ink pens, Cheryl seconded, motion passed.
  - b. Diana moved that we spend \$75 to purchase three new state banners so that each chapter will have one. Laura seconded, motion passed.
  - c. Cheryl requested a final version of the Big Hill logo for the website and to include on the canopy. Donna will send it to Cheryl before this Wednesday.
  - d. Diana asked if we should buy another canopy next year, discussion concluded that it wasn't needed.
8. New Business
- a. Monthly Newsletter – no newsletter for June but there will be one for July.
  - b. All board position job descriptions have been submitted and will be reviewed and standardized by Steph and Cheryl then added to our website.
  - c. 2024 BCHKS 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee was formed: Steph, Laura, Diana and Pattie.
  - d. 2024 National Meeting will be held in Casper, WY, date not firm yet.
  - e. Chisholm Trail Chapter received a \$500 national BCHA grant and Tuttle Creek Chapter received a \$200 BCHKS grant in the form of two wheelbarrows.
9. Other Discussions
- a. Diana suggested holding an online vote regarding raising annual national dues by \$5.00 be held sooner rather than later so it's completed before the end of the year. Steph will work on it.
  - b. Cheryl suggested BCHKS provide chapters with a set annual expense reimbursement amount like the \$250 the KS Trails Council provides for some of our chapters. More discussion is needed.
  - c. Cheryl suggested next year having each chapter host a “Fill the Campground” ride.
  - d. Bill shared the new phone number for The Bridge campground near Big Hill 936-676-0532. It's also on FB.
10. Motion to Adjourn
- a. Cheryl moved to adjourn, seconded by Laura.
  - b. Motion passed.
  - c. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.