

BCHKS Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes
Flint Hills Saloon & Eatery, Council Grove
1 pm, January 22, 2022

Meeting was brought to order at 1 pm by Chair Stephanie Huss.

Stephanie introduced guest Barb Stambrough, Groundskeeper for the Allegawaho Memorial Heritage Park, trail's end for the BCHKS Santa Fe Trail Ride in September. Barb commended BCHKS on leaving the trail and the Allegawaho grounds in pristine condition following the event. She reminded members that there is a 2.3 mile trail that surrounds the park and is open to equestrians. Barb introduced Kaw Nation member Jason Murray. He also commended our group on our respect for the land and the work we do. Jason reminded trail users of the importance of leaving artifacts untouched that may be discovered in the area and report their location to Barb. He reviewed the history of the Kaw Nation, or the Kanza, from which the name Kansas was derived. He emphasized the importance of getting youth involved in the work we do and continuing to teach respect for the land.

Business Meeting –

Minutes from the last general membership meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Sheila reviewed the BCHKS Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance, \$6,681.05. After a review of expenses and income, ending balance for 2021 is \$6,706.98. Treasurer's report was approved.

Regional/Chapter Reports –

- Sunflower Chapter:
 - Perry State Park/Perry Lake – Jo Turner reported the new obstacle course is getting a lot of use. Pens have been added to the Wild Horse Campground for overflow. Tristan LaRocque has been named manager of Perry State Park, and he is very supportive of equestrians. A benefactor has donated \$2,500 to the Friends of Perry.
 - Clinton Lake – Diana reported that work continues on reclaiming the lower orange trail. The upper and middle trails are in good shape. Focus will continue on keeping the campground occupied.
 - Eisenhower State Park, Melvern Lake – Cheryl reported on a new white trail that goes north from Cowboy Camp to the northern boundary of the park. A concrete low-water bridge has replaced the bridge near Cowboy Camp that washed out every spring requiring extensive repairs. Dale Schweiger, Manager of ESP and Pomona State Park, retired in December. It is hoped that Assistant Park Manager Ted Craig is moved into that position.
- Saddle Ridge BCHKS Chapter, Hillsdale Lake – John Leighty reported that equipment is being purchased that will be for volunteer trail users. John also reported on work being done on trails on west side of lake. They are directly accessible from a day parking area below the dam.

- Tuttle Creek BCHKS, Tuttle Creek Lake – Pattie reported on the newest BCHKS chapter. In the seven months since chartering, the chapter has 18 members, a treasury of \$800, and reported 103 volunteer hours for 2021. So far, 25 hours have been logged for 2022. Blue trail markers are being used on the north trails, and Pattie has submitted a BCHA grant application to fund signage. Grants from other funding have allowed the purchase of small hand-held saws. The group is working on a new trail map. The new state park manager is very supportive of the chapter's efforts and may have funding for additional pens. He also intends to designate one of the campgrounds for equestrian use. Pattie contacted the Director of State Parks about an issue with the on-line reservation system, which is being addressed. Plans include beginning work on the Carnahan trails, which have long been neglected.

National Director Update – Diana reported that the BCHKS National Director is the liaison between BCHKS and BCHA. USFS is partnering with BCHA to report issues of non-equestrian use of equestrian campgrounds on Forest Service lands. There is an Incident Report on the BCHA website. Current bills include the Outdoor Recreation Act, which supports enhanced recreational opportunities, and the Build Back Better plan, which has funding earmarked for trail building. BCHA will sponsor a webinar, Feb. 5, Public Lands & Partnerships; Diana suggested that it might be beneficial to BCHKS members to attend. The link will be provided. BCHA is concerned that members are not reading email blasts; they are able to measure how many emails are open, and the percentage is low. USFS is partnering with BCHA on working to keep e-bikes off of equestrian trails. USFS considers e-bikes to be motorized vehicles; no motorized vehicles or tools are allowed in the National Forest.

Old Business –

- The New Member Packet plan has evolved into a welcome email to new members. The email message is being finalized.
- 2021 Volunteer Hours Report – Cheryl reported that volunteers logged 3,783 hours of volunteer work on public trails in 2021, which has a value of \$259,326. Since BCHKS starting keeping track in 2014, equestrian volunteers have logged over 23,000 hours, with a value of \$1,250,943! Cheryl had copies of the new simplified logsheet for anyone wishing to use it to keep track of hours.
- Membership Incentive – Diana reported on the incentive program to recruit new members. Pattie Stalder recruited the most new members in 2021 and was rewarded with a first-aid kit for trail work days.
- BHCKS/KHC Trails Advocate Membership – Justine Staten reviewed the new membership partnership between BCHKS and KHC. The Trails Advocate membership is proving to be beneficial to both BCHKS and KHC; BCHKS has gained 10 new members.

New Business –

- BCHA Grants – Stephanie reviewed the process for applying for the BCHA grant. Applications are being accepted now thru March 15.

- Lindsey Grant – Stephanie reviewed the application process for the BCHKS Lindsey Grant, named for the founder of BCHKS. These grants are open to BCHKS members and chapters.
- Equifest of Kansas 2022 – Pattie is coordinator of the BCHKS booth at Equifest and is signing up volunteers.
- BCHKS 2022 Officer Elections – Stephanie introduced the slate of nominees for the open positions on the state board of directors: Jen Stalder, Vice Chair; Sheila Watkins, Treasurer; John Leighty, Secretary; Diana Skinner, National Director. Motion passed to approve unanimous ballot.
- National Board Meeting, April 11-13, Embassy Suites, Kansas City, MO. After virtual meetings the past two years, BCHA will meet in Kansas City this spring. Diana invited members to attend meetings at no charge. Registration fees are only paid to attend meetings with meals. The meeting schedule will be shared when available.
- 501c3 Committee – A committee of Sandra Hiller, John Leighty, and Sheila Watkins has been formed to research renewing BCHKS 501c3 status. BCHKS By-Laws can be amended, if necessary, following the final decision.
- Wyandotte County Lake Bridle Trails – Stephanie shared information on a group that is working on a master plan for restoration of the Wyandotte County Lake Bridle Trails. They are asking for input from user groups to assist with development of the plan. Stephanie will share the Survey Monkey link for anyone interested in input.
- Diana has orange vests available for BCHKS trail workers. The vests were purchased by Saddle Ridge BCHKS; Diana is proposing that Sunflower BCHKS pay for the printing. A supply of vests will be offered to each chapter.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Cheryl Thomas, Acting BCHKS Secretary