

Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
Feb 8th , 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Ann Neal, Justin Ridgewell, Kendal Lehari, Alexis Minz, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Veronica Low, Cheryl Denault, Kelly Gravelle, Caroline Abrahams, Kathleen Wilson, Char Hodgson, Sarah Richardson, Laura McGuire

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

Veronica moved and Cheryl seconded and carried approval of agenda.

Cheryl moved and Veronica seconded and carried approval of the January 11th minutes.

2. Matters for Discussion

i. Presidents Report

a. Safety Devices Committee

Ann noted that this committee has met. A suggestion from a committee member is that we confirm pricing for clips, and combine efforts with other PHTAs to order a specific quantity and then determine how to distribute to organizers. Combining efforts would reduce shipping as they do come from Europe. One suggestion was to offer a buy one/get one free although other members suggested that organizers should cover some of the cost. It was also suggested that we can fundraise to generate additional funding for the clips. It was noted that we need a clear objective statement for this project, and the scope of the proposal before we fundraise. It was also clarified that the organizers accept the liability for installation.

b. Policies

Some work has been done on policies but we are not quite ready to distribute them to the Board for review

c. Banquet

We will need to confirm by June whether we plan to hold an in-person banquet. It was noted that the cost of ribbons was roughly \$2,000 and covered by Veronica's company as sponsorship. It was also noted that the OEA covered the cost of plaques. If we don't have an in person banquet, options for distributing ribbons were discussed, as it cost approximately \$10 to ship each ribbon. One option was to arrange for all OEA Directors to distribute ribbons.

Ann noted that the Nottawasaga has agreed to roll over our deposit and contract to 2022, if banquets aren't happening in 2021. The notion of a virtual banquet was discussed and members felt it would be possible to do award and ribbon presentations by Zoom – or we could produce a video presentation of awards with a separate video for each of the divisions/levels. It would also allow us to spend the \$11,000 elsewhere if we transitioned from a live banquet to virtual banquet.

d. Calendar adjustments

Ann noted that Equilibre in Quebec is hosting an Advanced on July 4th, although we shouldn't post this on our OEA calendar as it conflicts with our organizer's dates. Discussion ensued as to whether OEA should post non-Ontario events on the calendar. It was suggested that we could create a link to the other PHTAs for information on non-Ontario events rather than list them on our calendar. This way we don't have to rationalize why we might post some and not others.

e. OEA Schooling Days

Veronica noted that we have several organizers who have declared their interest in participating in OEA schooling days and are offering their venues. It was generally agreed by all members that these days were very positive and encouraged riders to either return to the sport or try it for the first time. Discussion ensued as to whether we could increase the rate if they go forward this year. In general all members were supportive of pursuing this program for 2021 although it was noted that we should not hand out printed material.

ii. Treasurers Report

Cheryl noted OEA financials are posted on our OneDrive and that we continue to have healthy amounts in our bank account. Membership fee revenue is down but not as much as we thought. At the moment we have about 30 to 40 new members from 2020. Kathleen noted that she has been reaching out to parents to encourage them to obtain associate memberships. Cheryl indicated that she will finalize the draft budget once she has the Committee budgets and plans.

iii. Communications Report

Kathleen noted that a member has volunteered to assist with the website. We are behind on our security patches and updates. Virtual clinics have been a huge success. She encouraged all members to review their respective content on the website and advise if there are errors or updates. She noted that she is also finalizing pricing on software for OEA which appears to be approximately \$3,000.

iv. Sport Development

Veronica reported that there is roughly \$32,000 in the YR/U25 budget. She confirmed that NAYC is taking place and we are currently confirming qualifications. She noted that an email blast will go out to all YR/U25 riders to give them details well in advance. It will be held in Tryon this year, one week after the Royal. She noted that they have travel grants, team socks and possibly technical shirts. An OEA member has volunteered to maintain the YR/U25 leaderboards as well.

It was also noted that the AA and YR/U25 are partnering to fund a Jessica Phoenix clinic in late March and future clinics on the weekend in the off season and possibly during the week in show season.

v. Competitions

Laura noted that she hopes to line up Committee meetings later this month to discuss plans for Organizers and Volunteers and referenced her Committee plans for each. She noted that the Volunteer Incentive Program (VIP) will be continued and will be the name of an award. We will also continue with the \$50 incentive per show, and potentially provide a special thank you card/certificate from the OEA to acknowledge their contribution.

There was also discussion about Coaching and that we continue to put efforts into obtaining certification of coaches. It was also noted that plans are underway to connect coaches via Zoom calls and potentially provide education and information virtually.

vi. Finance

Cheryl noted that budgets for Committees have now been posted and she will work on a consolidated view, and noted that no individual budgets are approved until the entire budget is approved. Kathleen noted that the AA group now has their own budget through fundraising. Discussion ensued about how we define AAs. It was agreed that we need to do some work to better define who is in this group.

Veronica noted that the Zara Buren award winner will be announced in another two weeks or so. It was emphasized that all 18 applicants had put a lot of effort into their applications and that it was a difficult decision to select a winner.

3. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on March 8th.

4. Meeting Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 9:33 by Veronica, seconded by Terri