

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

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

Regrets: Kelly Gravelle, Alexis Minz

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

Veronica moved and it was carried to approve the agenda.

Cheryl moved and it was carried to approve the February 8th minutes.

2. Matters for Discussion

i. Presidents Report

a. Update on EC-PHTA meetings

Ann circulated the agenda and asked for comment/input. She noted that they planned to discuss the relationship between PHTAs and their respective provincial organizations. It was expected that the levy issue would be discussed. The meeting was intended for Presidents of PHTAs only.

b. New venue for schooling

We received a query from the current occupant of the former Equus venue about running competitions and schooling. It was suggested that we review the existing OEA policy requiring that new courses require inspection. Ann will check with Pat and Ian on the OEA obligation for Course Inspection in these cases.

c. OEA Roles and Responsibilities/Digital Assets

It was noted that it would be helpful to have clarity on “who does/should do what” for OEA Board members. It was underscored that Committee Chairs we’re expected to bring recommendations back to the Board for approval. The draft Roles and Responsibilities chart will be tabled for a motion either by email or at the next meeting. On digital assets, we discussed the association of personal emails with various OEA accounts including social media. It was agreed that in principle we should use official email accounts, rather than personal email accounts for digital assets and ensure

appropriate individuals had access and responsibility. On Facebook, Char pointed out that it must be associated with an individual. Kathleen recommended that we take a week to develop a workback plan based on plans to retire email addresses. A vote on a new plan for digital assets will also take place later.

d. Adult Amateurs – definition and clinics

Ann noted Kathleen and Terri would be speaking to a new definition of Adult Amateur later in the meeting. There was some confusion with the Jessica Phoenix clinic as it was intended for both AAs and YRs and was treated as a first come first serve sign-up. It was suggested that we leave clinics open for sign-up for about a week, and then consider all requests based on available levels. On the go forward we agreed that future clinics should have opening and closing dates and that every effort would be made to accommodate overall demand and levels.

Ann confirmed that in future any scheduled clinics need to be approved by the Board before they are posted. This would be true for both virtual and in person clinics.

e. Officials Bursary

Ann noted that the official's bursary has traditionally been budgeted at \$2,500 and is divided among TDs and judges for continuing education based on applications. We may want to revise this to encourage new TDs to become qualified. Both Cheryl and Justin recounted their experience and the expense to become qualified. Often you have to fly to another location to take courses so it adds to expense. It was noted that EC may start offering online courses.

f. Frangible Devices

Ann indicated that we need to think about a policy for fundraising for Frangible Devices. Would we cost share with other provinces, pay for shipping, expect organizers to cover some of the cost? Kendal suggested that we need to find out more about pricing before we come up with options. Laura noted that organizers are happy for OEA to provide any assistance on this front.

It was also noted that sales of socks could assist with fundraising.

ii. Treasurers Report

Cheryl noted that revenue is down – but not as much as we thought. The operating loss projected for the 2020-21 budget is \$59,000. She noted that even with these projections, we can operate at another year like this and note that these losses are a one-time situation. We still have approximately \$80,000 in our bank account. This budget includes awards but not the 2021 banquet.

C. Abrahams moved, and V. Low seconded and carried approval of the OEA 2021 budget as presented.

iii. Governance, Policy and AGM

Ann noted that we are still continuing to work on other policies, in addition to Roles and Responsibilities and Digital Assets and they should be coming forward to future meetings. Caroline reminded members that a database of our motions is coded and available to Board members on the shared OneDrive.

iv. Communications

Char reminded everyone to complete their action plans so that they can be appropriately communicated. There is a communications plan available on the OneDrive that identifies what is being addressed in February and March. It is better to plan posts in advance based on messaging we want to send. Kathleen noted that she has updated the website and that we are updating the distribution list for Constant Contact. We will also need to rebrand the Adult Amateur group based on a new definition.

i. Sport Development

Volunteers:

It was confirmed that we should continue to provide \$50 per event to one volunteer

Terri moved and Cheryl seconded, and carried, that the OEA continue to provide its award to one volunteer per day at every sanctioned horse trial, based on a draw.

Adult Amateur:

It was proposed that, since OEA has no formal definition of Adult Amateur, that we consider this group to be all adult riders other than those longlisted and shortlisted by EC, as well as any adults in the OE GRIT program. In general it should include all adults including those who have or are, competing Pre-Entry to Intermediate. The Board was also reminded about the Margaret Godson virtual clinic coming up this month.

It was also agreed that we need to clarify our awards for 2021 – e.g. Novice Adult versus Adult Rider.

Young Rider/U25:

Veronica described plans for determining a team for the Youth Championships in Tryon. She noted that we have identified our selectors and that we have a sponsor for the technical shirts. It was also suggested that since the Championships would be held in the fall, when many students wouldn't be able to attend, that WilloWind has agreed to host a YRU25 challenge in October. It was suggested that this come to the Board next month for a more detailed proposal and a vote. In the meantime, it was noted that the Committee is recommending that \$7,500 be allocated for grants, and that \$22,800 be allocated for YRU25

leaderboards for 2021. It was agreed that the Sock fundraiser could be deferred to the next meeting.

Veronica moved and Cheryl seconded that a total of \$7500 be allocated for grants, and \$22,800 be allocated for YRU25 leaderboards as per the proposal for the 2021 OEA Budget. This motion was carried.

Veronica moved and Charlotte seconded a selection committee for the Youth Challenge in Tryon, North Carolina to be composed of P. Rowland, G. Roque and J. Bisiker. This motion was carried.

Coaching:

Kendal has a zoom call scheduled in March for anyone interested in getting certified or licensed as a coach. There is also a plan to feature certified coaches on our OEA social media.

Schooling Days Update:

Sarah has kindly agreed to take on the Schooling Days for OEA. At the moment we need to reach out to see if any other organizers are interested in being a venue. There is also an organizers meeting scheduled for March 22nd so we can determine interest then as well.

ii. Competitions

Laura noted that there is an Organizers meeting on March 22nd. More to follow after the meeting.

3. Other Matters

Veronica noted that several communications were received from winners of the Zara Buren awards to reach out and personally thank the Buren's for their generosity.

Ann reminded all members that recommendations and actions need to be approved by the Board before they are advertised and implemented. She also reminded members of our code of conduct and to treat members with respect and professionalism. In addition, we encourage members to copy the President and/or Secretary on significant communications.

4. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on April 12th