

Ontario Eventing Association Board of Directors Meeting
Sept 13th 2021
Final Minutes

Present: Ann Neal, Justin Ridgewell, Terri Hough-Gilmour, Veronica Low, Cheryl Denault, Caroline Abrahams, Char Hodgson, Sarah Richardson, Kelly Gravelle, Selena O’Hanlon, Doug Topalovic, Kendal Lehari, Nikki Maclellan

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

Veronica moved, Selena seconded and it was carried to approve the agenda.

Veronica moved, Kelly seconded and it was carried to approve the Aug 9th minutes.

2. Matters for Discussion

Board Membership

Ann advised that Laura McGuire had tendered her resignation from the Board, but that she would like to continue to work on both the Volunteer and Adult Rider Committees.

EC/OE Issues

Discussions are ongoing with EC regarding organizers who don’t collect OEA levies and a recent communication from the EC President which identified that PHTAs can establish their own membership requirements including levies, and also that EC does not receive membership lists from PHTA’s and therefore cannot confirm that an EC competitor is a member of a PHTA. It was suggested that we work on a letter that references the CAP agreement, offer to provide information on members and their associated standing as it relates to payment of fees and collection of levies. Sarah and Kelly offered to prepare the letter.

It was also noted that an organizer is running a grasshopper division as part of an EC sanctioned event and suggesting that OEA memberships are not required. This is viewed as a clear contravention of EC rules and it was agreed that Ann would draft a letter about this.

No response has yet been received from OE regarding clarifications on the proposed Membership Services agreement, including the OEA position to not charge late fees. Kelly agreed to start drafting a new agreement for consideration.

Frangibles

Discussion ensued around the continuation of the frangible program for organizers, supported by OEA.

Cheryl moved, seconded by Nikki and carried that the OEA will continue its program to support the purchase of frangibles in 2022 and that we should arrange to place our order as soon as possible It was further moved to increase the allowable amount for Part B of

the CIP from \$1000 to \$1500 in 2022, and to maintain support for frangibles as stated in Part C.

Veronica also noted that KC Equestrian is willing to support frangible purchases through the sale of OEA cross country shirts next year.

TD Reimbursement

Cheryl noted that some organizers believe that our program to reimburse TDs covers travel only and not all costs based on the current expense form. Given the sliding scale of reimbursement based on entries asked if our intent was for this program to cover all costs. It was agreed that this is to cover all costs and to clarify our expense claim form. There is also a program where OEA will reimburse \$150 per competition day for Assistant TDs when they are assisting for the purpose of upgrading and/or getting accredited.

Given the shortage of TDs, this is a key program to continue - but there is no information on it on the website anymore.

On a motion by Cheryl, seconded by Nikki and carried, it was agreed to clarify our TD expense form to identify all associated costs are covered and to promote our program of providing \$150 per competition per day for Assistant TDs.

Action:

The entire TD assistance program and associated forms need to be written up for approval and posted on the website – Cheryl/Ann

Membership

Caroline reported that our memberships as of September 11 2021 are 1194, surpassing 2015 levels (year of PanAm games). It was agreed that this information should be shared on our socials.

3. Treasurers Report

Cheryl noted that financials are posted. We will end year significantly better than expected and we need to start thinking about programs for 2022. As a Not for Profit ideally, we shouldn't operate with surplus revenues. While we need money in the bank, we likely are on high side given our fixed operating expenses are very light as we have neither buildings nor people to pay.

4. Committee Reports

a. Governance & Policy

Ann noted that Nottawasaga has agreed to refund our \$5000 for the banquet. We discussed the need to do planning for the AGM including various awards and how we get awards to people and the different types of awards we should offer. Ann agreed to convene the AGM/Banquets committee to get started on this planning

b. Communications

Char noted that there is not a lot to update. Start times are getting posted on the website, but ideally we would get start times a little earlier. She and Doug are trying to keep the website up to date.

c. Sport Development

Young Rider/U25:

Veronica reported that selectors have had one meeting about delegates to Tryon. For WilloWind, selectors will be there and the YRU25 group will be doing prizes for the Fall Finale.

It was noted that we've been in contact with the Buren's about the anniversary of Zara coming up and they will be very involved in messaging. We do need to reach out to all riders who received funding to recap their season and also to prepare for this year's award process.

Adult Riders: No specific report although it was mentioned that an established facility was interested in the notion of a bootcamp and could offer a gallop track. Nikki, Ann, Veronica and Selena agreed that they could start looking into this as an opportunity.

Coaching: No report

Schooling Days: Sarah noted that she is organizing the schooling day at Bronte Creek. At the moment have 12 riders registered but we expect we will receive more.

d. Competitions

Cheryl noted that another board member will need to support the organizers committee now that Laura has resigned. A meeting needs to be scheduled for October. Key issues include frangibles, competition dates and a discussion of the date selection methodology. It has been very challenging with so many competitions and venues changing their dates through the U.S. and Canada.

Discussion ensued around the recent actions of certain organizers to support other venues. In particular Oakhurst adjusted their dates to allow another venue (Steven's Creek) to run on a specific date.

On a motion from Ann, seconded by Nikki and carried it was approved to donate levies collected from the rained out August Stevens Creek event back to them given the additional costs they will incur by running a rain date with no additional costs to competitors.

Volunteers: No Report

Officials/Safety/Rules: No report

5. Other Matters

Ann noted that she would like to invite Meg from EC to attend the Willowind finale to get a first hand view of Ontario eventing and the organization and volunteers required to make it work. All were supportive of this idea.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on October 12th, 2021