VALLEY TRAIL RIDERS

February 13, 2024 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Lorrie Conry at 6:47.  Officers present were President - Lorrie Conry, Vice-President - Yvonne Comm, Secretary - Caron Paschke and Treasurer - Rose Shedd.  There were a total of 25 members present.

Welcome to new members Melissa Myers and family, Lori Brose and Janeen Latta (returning)!  We are happy to have you with us (and back again).  Thank you to - Yvonne Comm for hosting a Game Day, Lorrie Conry and Terry Busby for hosting a Game Day, to all the new committee members for 2024 and Terry Busby for handling the purchase of the new projector and screen.

Secretary's Report - The minutes from the last meeting were presented by Caron Paschke.  Terry Busby made a motion to accept the minutes which was seconded by Cindy Edwards.  The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Rose Shedd reported a checking account balance of $3,408.96 which includes $135.00 in the hand sanitizer fund, income of $265.00 from dues paid, expenses of 44.52 for office supplies and $12.00 from cash on hand for state fees. Cash on hand is $188.00 and ending balance in checking account is $3,629.44.  We have $405.00 of club apparel on hand.  Deb Hamilton made a motion to accept the report which was seconded by Kris Darmon.  The motion passed.

Committee Reports -

Rock Cut - No report.  Replacing the missing lattice was discussed.  Jeff Edwards will handle that with help from Terry Busby.

Forest Preserves - No report.

Franklin Creek - Lorrie Conry has the forms necessary for anyone who wants to volunteer for the work day at the park.

Lockwood - Parking for day riders is now across the road from previous parking.  It is a small grassy area that could be problematic if it is wet.

Social Media - No report.

Ride Committee - Liz Longenecker advised they are working on a flyer of events throughout the summer.  If anyone wants to host a ride contact Liz or a committee member.  The host of a ride will choose the location of that ride.  They are discussing starting a ride program tentatively called Miles by the Minute.  Members will receive a patch for reaching each level of hours ridden.  It is not a competition.  A yearly charge of $25.00 is being considered.  Hours logged in to the club website would be used.

Club Apparel - No report.

Social Committee

**March Meeting:** New Ideas in Hoof Treatments – discussion with Alchemy Hoof Care owner Judith Wolter – it will also be pizza night provided by the club.

**April Meeting:** Equi-Stroke owner and practitioner, Mary Hougan (Certified Equine Massage Therapist) to present ideas on equine bodywork.

**May Meeting:** Mental Health and Wellness – the role that animals play; Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and accomplished horsewoman on the benefits of animals in our mental health.

Ideas for future guest speakers and activities:

Painting Party! We would need a minimum of 8 participants.

Dowsing

Speaker on tack care – Will ask Jamie’s Restoration, possibly in a fall meeting when we are getting ready to store much of our tack for the winter months.

Winnebago County Forest Preserve community liaison on how we can be better stewards of the Forest Preserves

Wisconsin Road Trip (late fall) Meet up for breakfast and hit the road! First stop at the Horse Emporium, (Waukesha), then head over to Palmyra to explore Horseman’s Camp or Old World Wisconsin, stop off at Holy Hill Basilica and then on to dinner at Fox and Hound for a true Wisconsin Supper Club experience.

Chili and Bonfire (either connected with a fall ride or at the Clapsaddle’s)

By-Laws Committee presented a copy of proposed changes to each member present and there was discussion on each article that had changes proposed. There were a few changes made including a motion during the process: Lori Edwards made a motion to change the date of late fees on dues payments.  It is currently January 31 and she proposed changing that date to March 1.  Diane Feuillerat seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Those not present will be receiving a copy of the amended By Laws that are voted in. Donna Howland made a motion to accept the changes.  Kris Darmon seconded the motion.  The motion passed.

**Old Business**

Charitable donations were discussed.  $200.00 has already been donated to Lockwood.  We do not have any information on the previously discussed bench donation for the new arena.  Susan Krug suggested a donation toward a trailer parking area. Lorrie Conry made a motion to donate $200.00 to the arena project at Franklin Creek State Park. Liz Longenecker seconded that motion.  The motion passed. Diane Fieullerat made a motion to donate $100.00 each to Ogle, Boone and Winnebago County 4H clubs.  Deb Hamilton seconded the motion.  Diane then amended the motion to specify the donations were to sponsor equine classes at the county fairs.  Cindy Edwards seconded the motion.  The motion passed.

**New Business**

Lorrie Conry explained an Associate Membership that some other clubs have available.  After purchasing membership (at a higher rate than members) they may advertise their business on our website public page and other avenues in our yearly operations. Melissa Myers will work on an advertising page for those members.  Current members can advertise their business for free on the private page.

Lori Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  Melissa Myers seconded the motion.  The meeting was adjourned at 8:38.

After the meeting Terry Busby gave a demonstration on navigating the website.