

September 10, 2019, AERC Board Meeting Minutes

AERC President Monica Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:17 pm

Board members present were Monica Chapman, Michael Campbell, Connie Caudill, Angie Mikkelson, Jan Stevens, Dawn Hillard, Nick Kohut DVM, Jessica Cobbley, Naomi Preston, Lisa Schneider, Susan Kasemeyer, Vance Stine, Troy Eckard, Marcia Hefker-Miles, Shawn Bowling, Olin Balch DVM, Gordie Cowan, Mollie Krumlaw-Smith, Robert Marshall DVM, Michael Maul, Heather Reynolds and Tim Worden. Also present -Executive Director Kathleen Henkel and Kyra DeMartini.

Absent were Andrew Gerhard, Christoph Schork, John Parke and Tonya Stroud-Oaks.

Vance Stine made a motion to accept of agenda, Gordie Cowan seconded. Motion passed

Susan Kasemeyer made a motion to approve the 7/20/19 midyear minutes, Troy Eckard seconded. Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Connie Caudill made a motion to excuse Andrew Gerhard and Christoph Schork who were out of the country and John Parke who was in a fire danger area. Seconded by Troy Eckard. Motion passed.

Kathleen Henkel presented the Statistical report;

Membership as of 9/10/18	4790
Membership as of 9/6/19	4619
Sanction fees as of 9/6/18	\$14,750
Sanction fees as of 9/6/19	\$14,760
Rider fees as of 9/6/18	\$49,066
Rider fees as of 9/6/19	\$48,336
New members as of 9/10/18	540
New members as of 9/6/19	525

Connie Caudill presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve sanctioning for the second year of the Torre Creek Pioneer ride on June 26-28, 2020. Sanctioning Director, Andrew Gerhard has approved the ride. Motion passed unanimously.

Jan Stevens presented a motion from the Sanctioning Committee to approve the sanctioning of the Spanish Peaks Pioneer ride to be held June 12-14, 2020. This will be the third year for this ride on these dates. Sanctioning Director Jan Stevens has approved the ride. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Chapman nominated Karen Chaton as the new chair of the Junior/Young Rider Committee. Jan Stevens made a motion to approve Karen Chaton for the position, seconded by Heather Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Chapman presented a motion from the Trails and Land Management Committee- Haymeadow Creek Crossing

Construction of 1200' of new trail and rehabilitation of the old trail on the Grand Island-Bay de Noc equestrian trail in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Committee moves that AERC Fund \$5000 for the requesting organization. Great Lakes Distance Riding Association (GLDRA) % Karen Bahrman GLDRA BOD Member, AERC Ride Manager. The construction of new trail and rehabilitation of the old

trail will allow for equestrians to have a safe and usable trail. The trail has been used by the AERC Grand Island Ride (41 years) and the AERC Grand Island North Ride (8 years). These rides will be able to go back to running the ride on the original historic trail. Approximate total cost is \$11,000. Private donations of cash \$6000. Grant will come from dedicated Trails Grant Fund which has a current balance of \$33,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Chapman presented another motion from the Trails and Land Management Committee- 25th Ave Trailhead Pavilion Grant.

To buy and install a shelter at the new 25th Ave. Trailhead on the Cross Florida Greenway. The Committee moves that AERC fund \$3000.00 or less for requesting organization. Cross Florida Greenway Equestrians % Douglas Shearer. To buy and install a shelter at the new 25th Ave. Trailhead on the Cross Florida Greenway. The state of Florida has moved equines from a busy multi-use trailhead (mostly bikes) to a new trailhead. The state has already installed a solar powered well, portalets, picnic tables, wash rack, and mounting blocks. The state has plans to install restrooms this year. Funds from dedicated Trails Grant fund. Balance currently at \$33,000. The shelter will help ride management during the AERC Pioneer Ride Gallop on the Greenway held on the Cross Florida Greenway. It will also help all users of the trailhead and trails. Newspaper write up will mention AERC after project is completed. AERC members condition on these trails and the Gallop on the Greenway has been held for a minimum of 10 years. AERC members have contributed to over half the 600 hours of volunteer time to the Cross Florida Greenway by equestrians. Approximate Total Cost for Project is \$20,000 Ocala Mountain Bike Association \$2000 Cross Florida Greenway Equestrians \$2000 Florida Park Service \$10,000 Private donations of labor and concrete remainder of cost. Motion passed unanimously.

Monica Chapman discussed clarification of Rule 8.4 which currently reads "Career mileage credit only for AERC members and equines who participate in FEI rides or endurance rides in a foreign country at least 50 miles long and sanctioned by an AERC recognized organization." After discussion with the international committee and the office, Monica Chapman is requesting the Rules Committee revise the rule to clarify that in order for AERC members to get Career Mileage Credit - they must contact the office for approval before the ride and forward the results after completion of the miles. Michael Campbell confirmed that the committee would try to complete the rule wording change by the next Board meeting. Kathleen Henkel stated that the office will look up information to make sure that the foreign organization is an actual endurance organization which has rules similar to AERC in order to be recognized for mileage.

Monica Chapman made the following statement on the Petition to amend AERC Bylaws to address equine abuse

ARTICLE 13 of the bylaws AMENDMENTS

13.01. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be placed before the membership of the Conference for a vote upon approval by two-thirds of the Board or upon petition for such amendment by at least 5% of the Voting Membership as of the date the petition is received by the National Office. A petition for amendment must be submitted to the National Office and the signatures verified and the petition certified by the Election Committee. Ballots shall be sent according to Section 6.12 with the return date being at least 30 but not more than 60 days from the date ballots are sent. The amendment shall take effect only if approved by two-thirds of those Members who return valid ballots, a sufficient number of returned ballots having been received to meet the quorum requirement of 20% of the Voting Members. The Election Committee shall validate and count the ballots and certify whether the amendment passed or failed. All petitions and ballots shall be kept on file in the National Office for at least two years and be open for inspection by any member.

The petition envelope was postmarked 11/9/18. Voting members at the time of receipt of the envelope were 4,381. Signatures verified 253, 5.77% of the membership. The petition was received too late to be included in the Director at Large Election last year. It is important for AERC to be fiscally responsible and to follow our bylaws. Each year our budget includes funding for one election. After consulting with legal counsel including a California Licensed Non-Profit attorney the petition was found to be signed in good faith by the AERC members. To save as much money as possible the petition vote will be sent out with the AERC Regional Director Election in November. There will be an article in the November EN and with the ballot that will include an article on the pro's and con's of passing the petition. After consulting with the AERC editor, each side will be allowed 600 words.

Vance Stine made a motion, seconded by Tim Worden. "The AERC BOD take a stand against the Petition to Amend the AERC Bylaws to Address Equine Abuse. Our rules and bylaws already address equine abuse. The petition could motivate lawsuits if a member were banned due to this bylaw change. The petition could also be detrimental to the foundation of AERC especially some AERC Iconic 100 mile rides have incidents that could bring horse welfare into question. The Board should recommend that we are against this bylaw change".

Vance Stine felt the title of the petition is misleading. He stated that the board is very concerned about horse welfare and we already have a rule that was copied and pasted directly from our rules into this bylaw petition – Rule 11.1 He feels this motion will help the general membership to be informed and give them guidance.

After a thorough discussion Vance Stine withdrew the motion. It was decided that AERC would be best served if each Board member were to discuss with their regional members the concerns. The Board members felt this was a good discussion in helping each of us to understand regional differences and concerns and thanked Vance Stine for bringing this motion up for discussion.

Monica Chapman brought up an issue that has risen from a motion that was approved at the midyear meeting. The motion adopted a policy where the AERC website would list the regional point standings of the top equine/rider teams regardless of whether they have completed the minimum number of mile requirements. At the time, Mike Maul felt there could be an issue with too many riders being listed. His concerns have proven to be on target with over 1000 equine/rider teams that would be listed. Troy Eckard would like to include Terry Woolley Howe in a conversation on a revision since much of the motion originated from her. Monica Chapman said we would revisit this at the next meeting.

Monica Chapman gave an update on the Strategic Plan. Each arm of the strategic plan group has completed their implementation plan. At the next BOD meeting we will go over the plans we have yet to discuss.

Mike Maul asked to revisit the earlier discussion on the listing of equine/rider on the website motion. He has checked the statistics and thinks it would be appropriate to list them after they reach 150 miles. Mike Maul made a motion to change the lower limit to 150 miles or greater in order to list equine/rider teams on the website. Vance Stine seconded. During the discussion it was clarified that this change would only be the endurance distance which has the significant problem. Troy Eckard didn't have an objection since it didn't affect the LD distance listings. Motion passed unanimously.

Troy Eckard made a motion to adjourn at 10:15pm, seconded by Mike Maul. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted by Connie Caudill