

## Minutes for Ride & Tie Association Board Meeting

November 14, 2013

In attendance: Ben Volk, Steve Anderson, George Shaw, Greg Fellers, Melanie Weir, Steve Shaw, Chris Amaral, Lani Newcomb, Gunilla Pratt, Eve Blumenfeld, Mary Tiscornia, Sherrie Reimers, Sue Smyth

Ben called the meeting to order at 6:34.

- I. Corrections to the August and September meeting minutes were noted to spell Lani Newcomb's name correctly. Following that notice Lani moved to approve both meeting minutes. Chris seconded and the motion passed.
- II. **Reports** - The proposed budget which had been emailed to the board was reviewed. Of note, the Hellman Foundation did not fund this year. Discussion about how if at all the organization might reach out to the foundation took place. It was noted that entry fee estimates were up.
- III. **Old Business** - Discussion continued about the overall budget and the championship budget. One major cost of the championship is the trophy buckles. A pendant as an alternative was suggested. Another suggestion was not to include the place or year. It was agreed to table this for further discussion.

Susan is working diligently on the 2014 championship and a sponsorship letter. Long time endurance rider Patti Bailey will be the Championship Day Manager. Joe & Cindy Larkin will be Course Designers. Tracey Bakewell will be creating the t shirts and will do Championship Awards and End-of-Year Awards.

The Tooth Fairy Fund has surpassed \$4,040. Steve Shaw reported the Western States Trail Foundation contributed \$1,000 and Steve also generously contributed to the fund.

An effort was made to continue discussion about the AERC proposal for Ride and Tie to join that organization. Many board members had yet to read the proposal in its entirety so that discussion was tabled for another meeting.

**Sanctioning** Lani gave a copy of the insurance rider to the AERC insurance representative to compare AERC with Ride and Tie Association's. Topic was tabled until further response and reporting is available.

- IV. **New Business** Eve is promoting in as many media outlets as she can to increase presence.

Equithon was described and discussed how it might be used to grow Ride & Tie. While adding members to the organization, awarding points would require a different matrix.

Sponsorships review: It was noted that broader interest sponsors were reluctant to sign on with a sport with a small number of participants. Ben recommended we target sponsors that are involved with AERC and are already aligned with equine endurance contests.

The next meeting was announced for January 23, 2014 at 18:30. This is the Thursday prior to PNER convention.

Ben adjourned the meeting at 8:04