

Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council
Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2011

President Shelley Burke welcomed the Board and introduced new members – Paul Gauntt & Cara Barnes - and requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Victoria Valar.

Minutes of June 5, 2011 Meeting

Secretary Ann Jeffrey read the minutes of the June 5, 2011 meeting. A correction to the minutes: The events and radio spots were on KAJX not KDNK

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer Christine Batcher reported there is \$5,600 in the account. There was a \$500 donation; the square dance netted \$75, which also generated 10-11 new members. Including member dues there was a total income of \$2,000; Fixed expenses yearly are \$600 for secretarial support, \$300 for internet and at least \$500 for charitable donations. We need to look at our dues structure. There are 20 lifetime members who have paid \$200 and there are 60 – 70 active members who pay dues every 1 or 2 years. These all have to be contacted for renewal fees. The board will address this.

President's Update

Radio Spots

Shelley reported that the radio spots on KAJX/NPR in June were very effective. Gail will look into continuing them.

Droste Trail Opening

RFVHC had a good representation at the Droste Trail Opening with eight riders – Paul Gauntt and Joni Keefe rode at opening ceremony. There was a nice description and photos on the website.

Hay Barn Proposal

John Zabriskie reported that after two years the Open Space and Trails proposal about hay barns passed. He said basically everything we asked for, we got. A ranch can now have as many hay barns and loafing sheds as needed. There was a lot of input from RFVHC members; all the letters sent to the county made a difference.

General Meeting

On June 23 the general meeting at Roberta's was not well attended with only 14 attendees and one new member. Dr. Chuck Maker reported on EHM outbreak.

Hidden Gems Ride

On July 10, four members rode from Dinkle Lake to Hay Park with Will Rousch from Wilderness Workshop. There is a picture on the website.

Ride for the Cure

On August 6, the Ride for the Cure was at High Aspen Ranch, hosted by Ron and Debra Weisser and co-sponsored by RFVHC. Ten members attended. Shelley talked about RFVHC and two new members joined – one lifetime. This does count for a community-sponsored event for our 401c3 status.

Capital Creek Trailhead

Jon Thompson of the Forest Service gave out a copy of the new Travel Management Map and reported they have 15 permanent employees for the responsibility of 500 miles of trail. The Board discussed with Jon the feasibility of finding a way to get to the Capital Creek trailhead without riding on the road. The best way to accomplish it would be to cross the Child Ranch. There was discussion that it would entail the installation of a parking area, gates and a trail; an easement, a design and clearing would be needed; liability may be an issue for the Childs; agreement for maintenance of the trail; possibility of exchange of a service to Childs such as moving cattle; whether the trail would become part of the FS trail system; how much use; how much maintenance. It was decided that Shelley, Tom and/or Jim would approach Steve Child. (note: The Child Family will not be able to make a decision on this for the foreseeable future)

Fisher Trail Adoption

Kim Miller of BLM reported BLM's desire for RFVHC to adopt the Fisher Creek trail south of Glenwood Springs. Kim read a Memorandum of Understanding that she had drafted, which listed that RFVHC would monitor for trash or hazards or vandalism, would contact BLM with what needs attention, report on numbers of people using the trail, numbers of dogs, game sighted, and educate the public. She said it would benefit both mission statements. The RFVHC would authorize members to do this. Jim Sorenson could coordinate. [Note on dogs: there is no leash law ("under control"), but some times of the year dogs may not go in.] BLM is not ready to add RFVHC to the permanent display, but they are ok with horse etiquette information displayed. Members were encouraged to take home the Memorandum and send comments to Jim Sorenson. It then goes to the Field Manager, and after approval, we sign it. It lends RFVHC validity. Kim said she would forward the new Travel Management Plan to us; comments accepted until December 15. She said horse enthusiasts are not as represented as other use groups and she (they) would like to hear from us. (Note: We did sign the memorandum and now are partners with the BLM for the Fisher Creek Trail – watch our website for more info about this)

Committee Reports

Community Activity

Jim Sorenson helped with the wording on the radio spots and wrote a letter for Open Space. We are moving along on community involvement.

Membership

Sandy and Adelaide have been doing membership, are retiring and now we need a new membership chairman. We need to remind members who are up for renewal and to involve

the lifetime members more. Personal contact is important. Shelley will compose a request for a new membership chairman and give it to Christine to email. (Note: Stephanie Brown is our new membership chairman and is working on the renewals.

Trail Rides

Upcoming trail rides were announced, Rosemary to do Droste trail ride, then an announcement could be sent out about the ride for media exposure.

Shelley went to Estin Hut with Wilderness Workshop, where a water line and trough have been installed near the parking lot. She asked if there was any interest in a hut trip this fall. Saturday, September 24 was suggested. It would be good to give feedback to Wilderness Workshop.

Events

It is time to figure out an educational event that would be a general meeting. There was discussion about subject matter and who could be speaker. Dr. Don Moore, Veterinarian and Chiropractor from Grand Junction is a possibility. Flyers could be distributed and Sandy said she would check the cost of space at The Orchard, Church at Carbondale. Gail Otte will work on that and also work on another square dance in February.

Discussion Items

The Board approved blind email recipient lists for general membership electronic mailings.

A co-chair is needed for the Ride for the Cure in 2012. Shelley will invite interested parties to partner with RFVHC for next summer's Ride for the Cure.

Shelley had signs announcing horses on trail for placing at trail heads. Let Shelley know if you would like to order one and she will place an order with Basalt Printing.

The RFVHC donation for 2011 needs to be decided, some possibilities are a youth program (introducing young people to horses), Windwalkers, or to Horse Rescue. Volunteers from the Horse Council could help with the kids. It was decided to give the Youth Program back to Heather and Susan for children who have had no exposure to horses. This is targeted for next spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 pm after a sumptuous pot luck dinner at Shelley's