

## **PA 4-H Horse Program Development Committee**

**November 20, 2006**

### **Minutes**

(Subject to approval at next meeting)

Members Present – Pat Comerford, Patty Kelly, Duane Duncan, Dave Gallaher, Tammy Eichstadt, Bryan Dickenson, Lori Little, Kirsten Dubbs, Lori Benner, Jim Sharp, Sharon Jodon, and Donna Zang. Jackie Simon joined the meeting by conference call.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Patty Kelly.

Pat asked for any additions or corrections to the committee member information.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2006 meeting as distributed.

The treasurer's report was distributed for review. It was noted that some bills from the 2006 State Show have not yet been received. Increases in show expenses were noted for the committee and judge's motel, ambulance service, and hauling used bedding. An additional new expense has been incurred for Directors and Officers Insurance. Jim Sharp will look into special risk liability insurance and get a quote on coverage for show. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the treasurer's report and submit for audit.

2007 AYHC Symposium – This year's symposium will be held in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Horse Expo. Donna is presenting. Patty and Pat are also planning to attend. It was moved, seconded and passed to designate \$1,000.00 to be divided among committee members participating in the symposium.

It was suggested that we increase the stipend for the show manager position. It was moved, seconded, and passed to increase the stipend to \$3,500. Pat will talk with Connie Garmen about Brenda Campbell's involvement with the show for further discussion on stipends at the March 2007 meeting.

Terry Etherton joined the meeting to discuss funding, the proposed endowment, and support staffing issues. Terry pointed out that the minor in equine science is the largest and fastest growing minor in college.

The committee discussed the 4-H horse program assistant position proposal and directed a subcommittee to prepare and submit the proposal. The proposal involves funding the position by assessing a \$10 per 4-H horse club member fee and accessing discretionary funds available through the Department of Dairy and Animal Science to help with immediate cash flow. The sub-committee (Pat, Patty, Donna, Tammy, and Tom Murphy) will work with Roger Martell to address financial concerns. Terry has talked with Daney Jackson about the concept for the position. Terry will help to get approval to move forward with further discussion on the proposal. The committee will prepare a position description, a rationale for the funding proposal, a budget, and a method for collecting funds. The committee will meet in January with a goal to finalize the proposal by January 31, 2007. The timeline will include a goal to have someone hired to begin work in January of 2008.

Terry has researched what became of the money that was collected in memory of Jim Gallagher. There is approximately \$3,000 in the account. The development committee needs a minimum of \$25,000 to establish a program endowment that will provide funds for program support. Once established, approximately 5% of the proceeds go back to the program for immediate use and an additional 5% goes back into the fund for future growth. The committee needs to establish long term goals for the funds. As soon as the endowment is set-up, it will go on Penn State's master list that is sent to all past donors, allowing donors to specifically select the 4-H Horse Program as the beneficiary of their donation. The endowment sub-committee (Terry, Duane Duncan and Ben Nolt) will meet to establish guidelines and a marketing plan. The goal is to have \$25,000 by December 31, 2007.

2007 Dates and Events – Pat distributed a tentative list of dates and events for 2007. The committee discussed options and agreed to the preliminary calendar.

PA Horse Forum – Flyers should be available by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Teens are encouraged to participate. There was discussion on including a Horsemanship Skills examiner training in the forum schedule. It was decided that it would be difficult to work into the schedule and that participants needed an opportunity for free time during the forum.

Shared Horse Program – The program guidelines have been referred to the liability insurance carrier. Program is on hold until the insurance issues are resolved.

Recreational Activity Project – Betsy Ullrich agreed to chair this project and is working on it.

Ohio Safety Book – Ohio willing to share the publication and is OK with us making appropriate changes. Pat is working through the curriculum development process on this and will submit a proposal by January 15.

Acknowledgement of Risk Form – Pat updated forms specific for different audiences that include specific inherent risks of equine activities on each form. The forms also clarify those to be used for adults and non-4-H members at open shows.

Other Curriculum Concerns and Opportunities – Karen Vines is working on the online curriculum for animal science projects as an interactive tool. She had also started work with the horse safety checklist. The committee felt that having the project books on line would be helpful and is a higher priority. Pat will discuss further with Karen.

Horsemanship Skills Clinics – The following dates are scheduled for 2007: April 14<sup>th</sup>, SW (to be rescheduled due to a conflict with Equine Affaire in Columbus, OH) and March 10<sup>th</sup>, Columbia County. We also need to consider one for the central and southeast areas of the state.

State Horse Show – It was noted that the Farm Show crew did a great job with the facilities this year.

The situation with the contest classes will be corrected for 2007. Volunteers have come forward to help with those classes.

The western grooming and showmanship classes will be held before the English grooming and showmanship classes to provide time for exhibitors in western pleasure to prepare.

There is conflict with the exercise schedule and the jumping and driving classes. The exercise area is limited and the needs of these specific classes are a concern.

A question was raised about possibly starting the show on Thursday evening. Should we have more classes on Sunday's schedule?

General signage needs to be left up longer on Sunday.

There has been some concern about the photographer, prices for photos, and the wait for having publicity photos taken.

There was also concern with the straw/bedding vendor and the supply of bedding available for purchase when exhibitors arrived at the show. We will need to add a statement to the show rules indicating that foam board in the stalls is not permitted. Many individuals used foam board or other padding under the bedding. The contractor will not haul away the bedding in the future if it contains foam board or significant debris. This will need to be communicated clearly. If found in stalls, counties will be held accountable. This is a trade off we have to make for the use of shavings as bedding.

The model horse show continues to do well. We will soon outgrow our current space if entries continue to increase.

There have been questions on the number of ribbons given in classes. The policy has been to place one half of the quota for each of the performance classes. The production division classes are placed to 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be added to the state advisory committee meeting agenda as a question from the DC. Further discussion is tabled.

There is a question about whether or not to continue to hold the pleasure pairs and county team classes. Are we promoting safety with these classes. What we have seen at the state show indicates that the quality of performance is not there. When a class no longer serves a purpose should we continue to offer it? This issue will be added to the state advisory committee meeting agenda as a question from the DC.

It was suggested that the wording for Class 19, Reining be changed from "Reining will be maintained at the county and district level..." to "Reining may be held at the county and district level..."

Suggestions for changes to the 4-H Horse Show Program (computer data base) should be forwarded to Vince Verbecke.

Does the word "should" mean "must" in regards to the statement in the rule book about providing copies of the obstacle trail class pattern to therapeutic division riders. The intent of the statement is to encourage show committees to provide copies.

It was suggested that we take a look at the distances for cloverleaf barrel race. The standard pattern dimension, as printed in the rule book, is too big. Compare to AQHA rules.

Regional Production Shows – Bryan Dickinson will chair the NW show in 2007. Giving consideration to moving the show to the Harlansburg facility.

There are concerns about the quality of the horses, the ability of the exhibitors to handle the animals, and exhibitors' failure to be prepared and at the ring when their class is called. The 2006 judge was tough but consistent. Exhibitors do not necessarily understand the purpose of the program. It is about the conformation and quality of the animal, not just about how hard the kids have worked. Are we doing the program justice by encouraging kids that may be purchasing poorer quality animals as a way of getting into the horse project? Consensus is that there is not enough education being provided about selecting and raising good quality horses and preparing them for show.

Operation of the regional production shows is also an issue. Should the DC consider having three shows instead of five. Exhibitors are often arriving late and this is creating a problem with check-in. It was suggested that the shows start an hour later and that there be specific check-in times for each show. Example – 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. for halter and noon to 1:00 p.m. for futurity entries. It was moved, seconded, and passed to establish check-in times for each show. Pat will work with the show chairpersons on this. Are there students available during the summer months that can travel to the shows to serve as gate people, etc. Bryan, Tammy, Jim, and Donna volunteered to help at the regional shows as their schedules permit. Dave is willing to go to all of the shows to help.

Youth Advisory Committees – The objective of this committee is to identify youth that are interested in having a leadership role in the program. Teens would have specific projects to work on in a leadership role. It was suggested that districts consider having one teen attend the state advisory committee meeting. Should we provide an opportunity for a state-wide teen advisory committee to present issues to the DC? Time could be set aside for representatives to visit the DC on an annual basis. There may be issues that are sensitive and need to be decided upon without youth involvement. Issues would need to be presented and teens would need to participate at the county and district levels to forward concerns and suggestions to the state level. Who will provide leadership for this effort? We have a responsibility to educate youth on appropriate procedures for having input and implementing change. It was suggested that this topic be discussed as a roundtable at the state horse forum. Tammy will put together a proposal to present at the state advisory committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Zang, Secretary