

# **OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes**

## **March 18, 2025**

**Present:** Tori Pengelly, Sarah Richardson, Steph Shatilla, Kaileen Millard-Ruff, Bernadette Johnston, Doug Topalovic, Ann Neal, Jamie Kellock, Xavier Traisnel, Nikki Maclellan, Sam Pritchard, Gabrielle Turcotte

**Regrets:** N/A

**Call to Order:** 7:03 p.m.

### **1. Meeting Opening**

- *Sarah moved, Sam seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes of the BOD Meeting on February 15, 2025.*
- *Sarah moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, to approve the agenda for the meeting of March 18, 2025.*

### **2. President's Report**

Sarah advised that planning for the Lucinda Green Clinic at Glen Oro is well underway. The rider groups have been selected and all have paid. Many who were not picked to ride have signed up to attend as coaches or auditors.

Sam suggested we do an early bird draw to encourage people to commit and pay early.

Sarah advised that the PHTAs have met with EC's Eventing Committee to discuss how the Eventing levies will be divided between the high performance program and domestic programming to assist provincial organizers. The main issues facing Organizers in the PHTAs are related to expense associated with XC courses, TD/officials', and safety.

Xavier asked how EC will decide how to split and distribute the levies. Sarah advised at this time, we are not sure exactly how this will be decided, and we should know more by our next meeting.

Sarah advised the test survey will be sent out in the next week to Board members, who will be asked to work through it and provide feedback. It will then be released to the public. We

are hoping that the results will help with finalizing programming choices and with developing our 2025-2030 Strategic Plan.

Sarah raised some current challenges with Board member collegiality and communications. She reminded the Board to communicate with each other, for example, to respond to/acknowledge emails. She further suggested that in the future we might open up the Directors' Code of Conduct to see whether any changes are useful to help facilitate constructive communications among Board members.

Sarah opened the discussion among the BOD of the types of fundraisers we might engage in to support Grandview. Ann advised that she has spoken with Grandview and they are interested in a Ride for Riders type of event. There was general agreement that this was a good idea, and Ann will move forward organizing the initiative. As a way to support organizers and market the OEA, Steph suggested a possible OEA branded stadium jump that we could donate or subsidize and sell to organizers.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Bernadette reviewed the February 2025 financial report.

She noted that Karen Briggs has reached out asking if she can get funding for expenses preemptively when she applies for things. Bernie will send this to Stephanie to work through.

### **4. Committee Reports**

#### ***Communications***

Doug advised the website has been steady work with Zara Buren and Lucinda Green Clinic.

Doug advised it would be useful if a couple of Board members had training on the website so that he's not the only one able to update.

Doug will update the awards section once Steph has everything completed. Steph will create social media posts to thank Anne Zander.

#### ***Emerging Professionals and High Performance***

Sam and Bernie to connect on this.

#### ***Schooling Days***

Kaileen advised many organizers are interested in hosting schooling days. Currently working on dates and asked if anyone has dates, can they send her dates so we can work around.

### ***Adult Riders***

Tori advised she is working on updating the team challenge and planning on organizing a clinic for adult riders which would focus on galloping position and pace. She will present a proposal at the next meeting.

### ***Organizers***

No updates.

### ***Volunteers***

No updates.

### ***Officials and Rules***

Ann advised she spoke to the person who is organizing the course building clinic at Grandview. She has not been able to connect on the clinic at Wesley Clover now.

### ***Coaching***

Sam has been working on the Coach of the Year jacket, she needs the budget from \$120 to \$200 on the jacket because of the quality issues, and then the program budget will be \$450.

*Sam put forward a motion to increase the budget to \$450 for the OEA Coach of the year award, for \$250 cash prize and then \$200 for the jacket. Steph seconded. Motion approved.*

### ***Other Matters –***

Sam advised she we might consider hosting a Peter Gray Clinic – Dressage and stadium. It would be useful to host in the Ottawa area, where there are fewer clinics. She would develop a budget based on the fact that the clinic would be self-funded with a proposed date to be July 22-23, 2025. Sam will prepare send a proposal for the BOD to consider.

Doug mentioned he was approached the RCRA to bring Ingrid Klimke in for a Masterclass. If the OEA were to be involved, it would be to help market the clinic and as a result OEA

members would be offered discounted rates. Doug will gather more information and bring it to the BOD for further discussion when available.

Bernie advised she is finalizing the Bursary she is working on, it should be ready soon.

Sarah has been working on the Zara's Award of Excellence again this year. She suggested that we make some changes to the distribution and mailing of the saddle pads to ensure that riders receive their award in a timely manner. Otherwise, the program would remain the same.

*Sarah put forward a motion; to approve the proposal for the continuation of Zaras legacy of Excellence, based on the successful 2024 pilot project, and to set aside up to \$450 to provide for the purchase of prizes for the top three placings, with a rebranded Zara's Legacy of Excellence Top Juniors 2025, and to contribute to the timely distribution of saddle pads as necessary throughout the season.*

*Nikki seconded. Motion approved.*

Steph advised – Weekend warrior is now two registrations to split the divisions.

*Steph put forward a motion to adopt the year end high point and member nominated awards as published on the website, and updated for 2025, and including the approval of the amount of \$150 to award to the winner of the unsung hero award. The Anne Zander award was discontinued in 2024. Seconded by Sarah. Motion approved*

Nikki advised she is working on the leaderboard policy, she will clarify a few points and then it should be more clear. More details to come next meeting.

## **5. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

- *Sarah moved, Gabby seconded, and it was carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm.*