

OEA Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes

February 13, 2024

Present: Tori Pengelly, Sarah Richardson, Doug Topalovic, Nikki Maclellan, Sam Pritchard, Gabrielle Turcotte, Steph Shatilla, Kaileen Millard-Ruff, Xavier Traisnel, Veronica Low

Regrets: Jamie Kellock, Bernadette Johnston

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

1. Meeting Opening

- Sarah called the meeting to order.
Sam moved, Steph seconded, and it was carried, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting.
Sam moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried to approve the agenda.

2. President's Report

- There is a fundraising auction being run on behalf of EC for the Canadian High Performance Eventing Team going to the Paris Olympics and the OEA might consider donating an auction item. **Sarah proposed a motion to set aside up to \$690 to cover the costs associated with two identical auction items as follows: The OEA will pay the cost of one entry free (not including EC's \$15 levy) in any division offered at any of the 20 EC-sanctioned Ontario Horse Trials in 2024. Value: up to \$345 each (depending on the division entered).**
Sam moved, Doug seconded, and it was carried, to approve the motion to set aside up to \$690 to offer 2 paid entries to EC-sanctioned Ontario HTs (in any division) as auction items to support EC's Eventers to Paris fundraising auction.
- The date of Wesley Clover Park's first horse trial has changed from June 2 to June 23, which falls on the same weekend as Caledon HTs. Caledon was notified of the proposed change and had no issues. The website and Omnibus page will be updated.
- The EC PHTA meeting scheduled for the end of January was moved to the beginning of March. The eventing levies will be on the agenda.
- There was positive feedback from the newsletter sent out in January.
- The Zara Buren Memorial Award has been given out including a main award (to Alexa Maclaren), 4 grants of distinction (Addilyn Roth, Skylar Sanchez, Lana good, Nicola McLeod), and 2 grants of potential (Laughlin Alexander, Zoë Edwards). The announcement will follow next week and be covered in the February newsletter. Applications were excellent this year.

3. Treasurer's Report

- No updates (Treasurer not present).

4. Communications Report

- Progress is being made on the new website. A meeting will be held on February 15 to work on platform and format issues.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 U25

- Applications are open and there have been a few registrations already. Plans are in the works to develop a program for the upcoming season and present a budget.

5.2 Schooling Days and Adult Rider

- The following three venues have expressed interest in hosting schooling days: Bronte Creek, Stevens Creek, and Wits End. Dates need to be confirmed and clinicians identified.
- A suggestion for the Adult Riders is to run a 2- to 3-day camp for adult riders and possibly offer bursaries for the cost of attending targeted clinics or other camps, such as that run by Tiara Equine. Sam presented a possible format for the adult rider camp, with the idea to school in a non-competitive environment, encourage socializing among eventers and build this community. No dates have been identified.

5.3 Organizers

- There was a discussion of entry fees for HTs, which concluded that Organizers are free to set their entries as they wish. They asked for the assistance of a set of Omnibus pages from the current season for reference as EC often removes these from their website at the end of the year when Organizers are in the process of writing up their Omnibus pages for the following year. The Committee will compile the pages and send them out to Organizers before the end of the year.
- There was some discussion about the issue of timing at HTs for EV60, which needs to be consistent across the province. There was lots of debate. One consideration would have the potential speed fault time at 400 mpm and no penalties for going too slow. This would keep things consistent for EV60, EV75 & EV85. The committee will bring forward a proposal for Organizers in advance of the next Organizers meeting.
- EV78 level will become EV75 to fit into the levels in more consistent and understandable manner. Organizers will have three years to update their cross country courses but the show jumping can be amended to this height this year for EV75
- The OEA will help organizers publicize events, ask for volunteers, whatever they might need etc. including through the newsletter and social media and on the website.
- It was noted the EV60 level showjumping was very small at some events last year and makes the jump from EV60 to EV75 more difficult. We will suggest organizers set their courses closer to height this season.

5.4 Volunteers

- The Committee advised that it has put together questions to ask the Organizers about what help they need getting volunteers as they have requested help with

this in the past. Concrete suggestions will be brought to the Board at the next meeting and, where applicable, will be budgeted.

- Xavier suggested a pamphlet to keep in barns for people to check out with OEA volunteer FAQ.

5.5 Officials and Rules

- The Committee proposed a 'Rule of the Month' where we share simple but clear EC eventing rules with our members via newsletter and social media.
- Peggy Hambly offered to help with reviewing our rules and making sure they are correct before we send them out.

5.6 Education & Coaching

- Xavier reported on the development of a Clinic with Rebecca Howard sometime during the summer. The weeks of June 2 and August 12 might work.

6. Other Matters

- The Board was asked to review four updated policies and guidelines that were circulated prior to the meeting so that they can be finalized and reloaded on the website in preparation for the transfer to the new site, when it's ready. **Sarah presented a motion to approve the following policies: OEA Code of Conduct; OEA Working Committees: Guidelines; OEA Policy for Receiving Feedback and Resolving Concerns; and, OEA Directors and Officers: Board Meeting & Communications Guidelines.** *Sam moved, Nikki seconded, and it was carried, that the following policies were approved: OEA Code of Conduct; OEA Working Committees: Guidelines; OEA Policy for Receiving Feedback and Resolving Concerns; and, OEA Directors and Officers: Board Meeting & Communications Guidelines.*
- Veronica asked if the Board would like to use the same venue at the Royal Winter Fair for the OEA AGM on November 2, 2024. All agreed that this was a good idea and Veronica indicated that she will send in a request to book the room.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Sam moved, Stephanie seconded, and it was carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.