

Meeting called to order by Didi at 6:50pm
Denise, Lynn, Andrea, Martha, Karen, Didi, Silja, Kellee, Kelly

1) Presentation on Junior Rider

Joan and a young rider were scheduled to do a zoom presentation since they couldn't join us in person this time. We rescheduled their talk until the November meeting so they could present in person.

Andrea discussed why the young riders are going to present to us. There was a large amount of money made on the Robert Dover Symposium due to generous donations. This summer the board offered Kathy some of her donation back. She declined to accept our check. The board decided to donate the \$1500 she refused to take back to the Region 5 Young Riders going to championships.

2) Treasurer Report

Main checking account ending balance: \$5,923.49

Symposium account ending balance: \$3,839.47

PayPal account ending balance: \$50.00

The club now has 3 bank accounts. Kellee explained the three accounts and the amounts in each. The PayPal account is for security so that we can have online funds go to the PayPal account to transfer to our regular account rather than expose our regular account directly to the internet. The Robert Dover Symposium account was used to keep income and expenses for that symposium speaker from the regular checking account to make accounting easier. Discussion of these accounts continued after a discussion on reserve funds.

This summer the board explored the need for a cushion in the bank account; to hold back some money in reserve unforeseen events. Originally having 5% our four costs was discussed but a 5% cushion is not a useful number or enough money for the yearly running expenses. After looking at the 3 year expense report Kellee put together, the members discussed the amount that the club should keep back as a reserve. Kellee reminded the members that our expenses usually hit early in the year but our income does not, instead trickling in as members join RMDS and participate in the first couple events of the season; therefore, we need to keep enough in our regular checking account to cover the start of the year expenses without relying on income.

A discussion on what that money should and should not be used for ensued. Members agreed that we should hold it back in reserve but not money that can never be touched. The reserve account was thought to be more for balancing our budget incase unforeseen events happen that cause the club to have little income but still run educational events. It could also be used to a large event like the club hosted this year. The group considered these funds to be marked as unrestricted funds- funds the club has but are not earmarked for anything in particular.

Andrea made a motion to transfer all but \$3k from the RDS account to our regular checking account so that the \$3k is kept in the (currently called) RDS account as reserve for the club as unrestricted funds that can be used for education, pay bills, etc.

The motion was second by multiple people.

It passed unanimously.

3) Things the board had worked on this summer

The board wants to make our Facebook and website easier for members to interact with and use. Didi, Sandra, and Kelly have created a new club website on SquareSpace. SquareSpace is much easier to work with than GoDaddy. The original club website will be up until February.

The new website does not have a go live date but there are only a few final touches to put on before it can go live. Kelly gave a short preview of the website.

The club's Facebook page needs a facelift. After a discussion on different types of Facebook page types and the goals of our page, Andrea made a motion to look into creating a new Facebook page that is page or group rather than a community so that the club has an updated social medial presence. Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kelly, Andrea, and Lynn all have experience with Facebook pages so will work together to update the club's Facebook and social media presence. The goal is to make it easier for members to interact with the page and build a community, but not have unlimited access to ensure community appropriate content.

5) Nov. is elections for the board.

This is our first announcement on election. It is in accordance with our bylaws that state the need for 30 day notice before the elections.

Each officer position is for 2 years. The president and treasurer cycle together and the vice president and secretary cycle together. For this election cycle, the 2 year terms are up for Treasurer and President.

Kellee is stepping down but is willing to help the new treasurer in the transition and afterwards. The board is in agreement that we would like Sandra to run again for president because she has done such a great job and is perfect for the position.

Sue has stepped down as Vice President so an interim vice president is needed to finish out the last year of this election term. According to our by laws, we need written notice for elections for vacancies. This will serve as the written notice for the vice president election happening this round of elections to finish the VP term.

6) Show committee presentation

Kelly and Didi talked about the vision of the show committee and events committee. The idea is many hands make lite work. The hope is that members will feel empowered to help direct the vision of shows since each individual job does not require a huge time commitment. The show committee will need to meet soon and will be headed by Didi. A basic outline of job descriptions for the show committee members has been sketched out but a benefit of being on the very first show committee is to help shape those roles.

7) Didi listed the events that are coming for 2023

Oct (22)- Board nominations

Nov (22)- Party/Awards/Elections

Feb- Tack Sale

March- Obstacle clinic at Two Spruce Farm

Schooling Shows I & II in spring

Ride-A-Test in spring, maybe at BREC again (suggested by members to have it before the schooling shows)

8) Schooling show!

There was a discussion about the preference of the schooling shows back to back, like this year, or split, like in previous years. The general agreement was a preference for splitting the shows. It was noted that April and May work well, June is okay, but July doesn't work well at all. One of the difficulties is competing with other events. Didi has been in touch with a few barns about their availability of their barns for the spring.

Fall events were brought up. Fall traditional for the club is when the members are done, as the fall events in the past have been poorly attended. The importance of changing that idea was brought up. There is also less competition for dates/venues in the fall as RMDS and other clubs tend to also be spring event heavy. This idea needs more exploration as to if a fall event would be more successful as a Ride A Test, Clinic, or Schooling Show. Members present were in favor of a Ride A Test to help get ready for the winter. A great marketing title was brought up as "Weather the Winter Event."

9) Next Meeting:

Origins was a great venue and we will have our next meeting here as well on October 12th.

Further discussion on what the members would like to see for the following year was tabled until the next meeting.

Adjourned: 8:15pm