

## BOD Meeting May 26, 2021

Call to order by **President Nancy Edwards at 7:01 pm.**

**President's message:** Silence phones and speak loudly so directors who are calling in or on Zoom can hear. Directors on the phone and Zoom should mute their phones and computers to prevent background noise.

Roll call: **An attendance chart is attached to these minutes.**

### Legislative report:

- There is a small business & non-profit grant of \$5000 available. Any small business or non-profit can apply. Megan and Jolene looked into this but the tax filing for MHF used a different form and may not be eligible for this grant.
- There is another grant that MHF can apply for. This money is for any fair in WI that lost money in the past two years. Mostly the money is for urban fairs and MHF may not receive any money.
- The legislation is working on a bill to eliminate the \$300/week on unemployment benefits to encourage people to go back to work; it is likely to be vetoed by the governor. The legislation did revive the job search requirements for all people on unemployment; this went into effect on May 23.

### Minutes from March 24, 2021:

- Motion made by Gail Seasor to approve the March 24 minutes, seconded by Anne Murphy. Passed.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Full reports of finances are in the meeting packet; Ron was not able to attend the meeting
- Floyd moves to accept finance reports as presented in the packet; Anne seconded. Passed
- Dianne Sackett reported on the financial status of the Equine Foundation (EF). The grant money was paid to the Governor Dodge group.

### Midwest Horse Fair Report:

- There is a report in the meeting packet; Pat was unable to attend the meeting.

## Old Business

### None:

- Nothing

## New Business

### UW Student Interview Request Discussion:

- A call came into the WHC office from two UW students who wanted an interview to discuss diversity and what efforts WHC is taking to promote diversity in WI. The students were deferred until after the EBOD meeting when a discussion could be held. An interview never happened because the students wanted answers before the EBOD met.
  - The EBOD discussion was that WHC would not respond to the inquiry. Nancy has since talked to the PR firm that MHF uses. The PR firm is willing to provide us a statement to put on our website along with some talking points if the topic surfaces again. The cost of the PR firm is \$85-\$100/hours.
  - Katie Bachhuber motions to approve the PR firm to create a statement for WHC; seconded by Floyd Finney. Passed.
  - There was a suggestion to start a DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) program to get involvement with a group.
    - Step one would be a fund raiser
    - Find a group, such as boys/girls clubs
    - Go to the group and talk about horses
    - If interested- have the group get introduced to horses
    - Next step would be to provide lessons
    - We should start small. EF would do the fund raising, a committee would be formed to work on this, it could be started at the MHF. This is a program directed more toward youth. By directing it to boys & girls club, most of them are under privileged. Districts could also do a similar program. District 3 did a similar program a few years ago called Horses in the Park; it was a one-time event not a program. Cricket suggested Nancy contact Tracy Porter and Leah Sader as they have a program working in the inner city.

- If WHC wants to do a program such as this, the PR statement will be slightly different than just an overall statement.
- Joe Parr mentioned that when the DNR offers the 'free weekend' in the state parks
- Bonnie Shepard motions that WHC develop a committee to look into developing a DEI program; there was no second to this motion; no action would be taken at this time.
- Darla mentioned that the PR statement could be updated at a later date if we move forward with a DEI program.
- Nancy will get a general PR statement ready to present at the June meeting.

**Other:**

- An email was sent out from the WHC office for the BOD to read and discuss. The email was about LA trying to stop PRCA, PBR and other rodeo, wrangling events in the LA area. If LA moves forward with this bill, other areas of the county may also do something similar and rodeos, bull riding and other similar events will be affected.
- Karen suggests that the email sent out to the BOD be sent to the coalition of horse councils. Darla would be able to send that email out to the coalition after someone writes up an introduction as to why the email is being sent out. Nancy will reach out to the AHC also and see what they know.
- Nancy would like all BOD members to respond to the email with disapproval of moving forward with banning these types of events.

**Future Meeting Dates:**

- June 23
- July 28 ??
- August 25
- September 22
- October 27

Motion made by Anne Murphy and seconded by Bonnie Shepard to adjourn at 7:56 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Jill Feller  
WHC Secretary