

Minutes of the April 14, 2025 EDRA Board of Directors Meeting

Attendance

- Bonnie Girod, President
- Shayne Russell, Vice President
- Margaret Birdsley, Board Member
- Alex Gesheva, Board Member
- Julie James, Board Member
- Jillane Baros, Board Member
- Julie Barnfather, Board Member
- Katie Poe, Youth Representative
- Marty Graham, Past President
- Sandy Cheek, guest
- Arielle Blume-Bonney, Treasurer
- Heather Rheingans, Secretary

Quorum present.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bonnie at 6:04 pm PST.

Approval of Minutes

Margaret moved to accept the minutes from the January 2025 meeting. Jillane seconds. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented and Jilliane will post on the website.

Welcoming of New Board Members / Positions

Bonnie as President

Alex to the Board of Directors.

Katie Poe as Youth Member

Remaining BoDs include: Margaret, Julie J and Julie B.

Arielle as Treasurer.

Heather has volunteered to be Secretary.

Club Rides

Budgets for Rail Trail, Ride the Loup, and DITR were all previously approved.

Update regarding DITR: email received from Deline and Victoria that they are having trouble finding vets.

No updates on other rides.

Old / Ongoing Business

Bonnie wants to have a BoD meeting in May.

Jilliane requests we set a calendar

Bonnie proposes shorter monthly meetings.

2nd Monday of the month to be scheduled on Zoom via Marty and Heather.

Alex moves for Marty to be reimbursed \$159.90 for the annual Zoom account, as previously approved by the BoD. Julie J seconds. Motion passed unanimously. Arielle will execute the payment.

Heather confirmed that she accepted the Secretary position and Marty is her point person regarding questions about the position. Heather will be responsible for elections at the end of the year.

Website Update: Jillane added emojis, making things easier to find, and putting horse & EDRA in Motion information available after membership login. As information gets transferred over, more is discovered. For example, the results that appear to be an Excel spreadsheet are actually MANY individual files working together. In short, this makes it noticeably more difficult to transfer the info into the new website. As such, Jillane is reaching out to the back-end website person, Eric, to ensure the info is not damaged in the transfer. Current awards still need to be uploaded. Jillane to connect with Sandy to obtain the list of 2024 ride season award recipients. Jillane also needs a comprehensive list of the new Board members to update the website. Any website content people have should go to Jillane and Sophia McKee (the 2 people that manage website content) to get it uploaded. They are working to make the website the comprehensive source of EDRA information. EDRA email is also now working.

Bonnie to provide a welcome letter to get on the website.

Registration opened March 1, 2025 for the 2025 Ride Season.

Julie J moved to approve the insurance renewal – that is on autorenewal and autopay - for the 2025 ride season. Jillane seconds. Unanimously approved.

Conference Recap

Pros: Venue. Clinician. Vet School Tour. Speaker Content / Quality. Games. Food.

Areas to Consider: large parts of the day with little to nothing going on, particularly for those without horses. Ways to keep attendees engaged (social / questions / etc) in the common spaces earlier in the day. Perhaps finish by 7pm and be social after, rather than finishing at 9pm or later. More content during that day rather than loading it at the end of the day. Traditionally attendance is down for both EDRA and PNER conferences as they move east in the region. The website being down substantially impacted advertising – people need to be invited at least 3 times to show up. Remember we are a conference (educational event) more than a convention. We tend to be a competitive group, so having a fun / competitive time could be welcome. To have some 'we always have at conference' things would be good. For example: leap frogging exercise, opportunity to try out one another's saddles, share trailer attributes / modifications, saddlebags, checklists. Small groups that may be more welcoming to questions that

participants are not comfortable asking the large group. Welcoming many short speakers (15ish min) from within the EDRA community: free, engaging more people which would in turn likely boost attendance, recognize what people do know and have learned and spawn connections at future events. Auction Items? Fun. Could generate revenue. Takes time to coordinate and track results and collect. Note that some venues do not allow sale of any kind. White elephant could be fun. We need to address the next location of, and ways to bring people to, the conference very soon.

Treasurer Report

Presented through March 31, 2025 as that is the most recent reconciliation.

Julie B moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Margaret seconds. Unanimously approved.

New Business

Reciprocity and Dual Sanctioning with AERC for the Prater Mountain Ride:

Ride Manager, Shelly Kerr, has stated that she is seeking dual sanctioning to increase ridership.

Discussion centered around the fact that this goal would not likely be realized. Many EDRA riders also attend AERC rides, where AERC riders are more likely to avoid a ride connected to EDRA.

Not profitable for the ride. More requirements / ie vets, insurance. No EDRA benefit.

Too many details to tackle within the timeframe.

It IS appropriate for Bonnie to politely respond "no" in writing. Bonnie to email to BoD to proofread prior to sending to Shelly Kerr.

Reciprocity vs Dual Sanctioning Policy: Tabled to next meeting. There is cause to revisit this topic because there is new leadership at AERC. The only info identified to be reviewed prior to the meeting the current reciprocity agreement with ERABC.

Sopia to be invited to the next meeting regarding the website.

Sue McClain to be invited to the next meeting to go over volunteer roles. Bonnie hopes to go through those to determine what needs to be filled, redefined, or abandoned.

Adjournment

Sandy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm PST. Alex seconded. Unanimously passed.

Minutes Submitted By

Heather Rheingans