Committee Members attending: Susan Studebaker, Linda Easton-Warner, Patricia J. Combest, Bonnie Beach, Bob Brown, Arielle Brown, Carolyn Jones, Linda Bentz

Extension Staff: Melanie Mintken

Club Representatives Attending: Alexis Goughnour – Saddle Slappers; Atheanna Bennett – Spirit Riders; Catherine Terhaar – Horsin’ Around


Others Attending: Mary Terhaar – Horsin’ Around; Jennifer Terhaar – Horsin’ Around; Grace Krieck – Equine Essence; Melissa Pfleiger – Promise Riders.

Meeting Called to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Pledges: Alexis Goughnour led the American Pledge of Allegiance and Atheanna Bennett led the 4-H Pledge.

Adjournment Time: The adjournment time was set for 8:00pm.

June Minutes: Bonnie Beach made a motion to accept the minutes as issued. Bob Brown seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Bonnie Beach reported that after paying for a few of the awards and taking into consideration the $598 from the BBQ the account balance is $282.66. Two of the judges have not yet been paid, these two are employed by OSU and it is the Committee’s responsibility to cover their costs. The amount owed is over $1,000 as one of the judges was there for the whole fair and lodging for that period was also owed because of the distance she traveled from her home. Besides this outstanding amount Bonnie also reported that Eleni Boston is also owed as the result of her paying for some of the awards out of her own pocket, no amount was given for this debt.

Open Discussion: Melanie opened the meeting for discussion on the various aspects of the county fair.

- Tammi Starrs said that it was the smallest Marion County Fair that she had ever seen and that we need to brainstorm to get the word out to schools recruiting more 4-H members.
- Oregon State Fair will have an Oregon 4-H booth in Columbia Hall, volunteers are needed to man this booth and spots are open waiting to be filled. To volunteer please go to: http://vols.pt/2GVvbA
There was discussion about forming a committee to explore how to get the word out about the opportunities that are available through 4-H.

Melanie reported that the Exhibit Hall had a 50% rate of no shows but the numbers over all were up.

The record books turned in were only down by 7 records.

Suggested having a meeting of people interested in exploring this. Information is given out by area giving names of clubs accepting new members in the project area requested.

Marion County Fair is the earliest fair in the state.

**Judges:** Lots of complaints about judges, horse judges have to come off the judges list. Suggestions for specific judges are welcome. Patterns were harder, it was perceived that show kids do well and others that work hard didn't do well. Melanie stated the fact that it is the judge's opinion on that particular day and that judges can have an off days just like anyone else. Judges have a different view than from the stands. The judges this year gave details, both judges were consistent - not one easy and one hard – they were both hard.

**Miscellaneous Items:**

- The bull riding was reported to have had an audience of 2,000.
- The PA system was not working for Showmaship.
- Ranch Horse was missing a bunch of volunteers.
- Carolyn Jones’ group (Misty Mountain Riders) stepped up and filled Ranch Horse spots that were open.
- Having the gaming at a different time took a lot of pressure off the horses, being expected to go slow for days and then to run as fast as possible.
- Ranch Horse as a State Fair Class: Carolyn reported that counties are polled to see if they have kids ready to do all of the events. If they do not have riders ready then having it as a state event is deferred and looked at again later.
- Roping clinic needs to be done by a judge.
- Think that there should be a parade of medallion winners at the closing ceremony.

Melanie posted large sheets of paper around the room and had post-it notes available for the audience to put their comments under specific headings:

**Suggestions:**

- Gaming - Record Times on ribbon and contestant pick up on table later.
- Gaming - Multiple devices for accurate times in case of failure.

**4-H Bad – Needs Improvement:**

- Would like medallions for Ranch Horse classes
- Review novice expectations / Review novice rules – allow longer
- When gaming timer is not functioning we should NOT resort to our phone as a backup; due to inconsistency of pushing “start” and “stop” or use multiple backups.
- When is Ranch Horse going to be a state event? (See item in the Miscellaneous group)
- Practice arena not available on Thursday – very dangerous.
- Ranch Horse showmanship first thing.
- Round Robin style for Ranch was great. However, NOT cooperative (judges and volunteers) when trying to show both livestock and horse.
• Ranch organization needs work – long waits in trail.
• Ranch Horse Skills Test not taken seriously
  1. “Helping” each other
  2. Not having studied for the test.
• Need to follow the scratch policy. Leaders need to make sure of the process.
• Tough patterns in too small of spaces.
• Seniors should get to pick their prizes first. Not much left by the time the seniors get up there.
• Volunteer software needs work.
• People not cleaning up poop in wash racks
• More emphasis on Ranch Horse Skills Test.
• Need roping clinic.

4-H Good:
• Likes scores being posted early.
• Good feedback on score sheets.
• Like having game day before county fair. / Liked having gaming on separate day.
• Liked having all ranch events on same day. / Loved having all the Ranch Horse classes on Sunday / Ranch Horse on its own day.
• Like more relaxed schedule, didn’t feel rushed to make events
• Great office staff.
• Who ever got the water outside the office donated – Excellent work! (Melanie patted herself on the back, Linda Easton-Warner said that she put new bottles in the cooler, and Linda Bentz claimed credit for plugging it into an outlet in the office.)
• Bar-B-Que (Many thanks to Kathy Mead and Misty Mountain Riders, Kathy was able to get almost everything DONATED.)
• Parent bracelets great – not hassling with tickets.
• Liked on line volunteer sign up.
• All classes seemed to get done at reasonable hours, not 10 at night.
• Loved posting of Driving and Ground Training
• Always someone in the office.
• Round Robin Ranch!

Fair Good:
• Like parent bracelets
• Staff was friendly and helpful
• Could hear the loud speakers in the barn this year.
• Never have I seen so many positive public in the aisles. Sign on fair grounds helped!
• Liked closer parking with fence.
• PA system was working well this year.
• Fence was good.
• Rodeo non-intrusive.
• Great arena footing, thank you for fixing. / Footing

Fair Bad – Needs Improvement:
- PA only worked in some aisles.
- No tables or chairs at Dairy Women.
- No benches
- It took a while for them to get bathrooms cleaned and garbage emptied.
- People running in stadium arena and leaning over the edge.
- Application on file for golf carts; not in buildings; no 4-H’ers driving
- No information in the office about bull riding. Lots of complaints from general public about lack of information.

**Horse Judging:** Marion County is hosting the Spring Horse Classic in April 2016. The regional competition is early. To accommodate the early date the practice for this competition will be held at Linda Easton-Warner’s facility at 6475 Wallace Road in West Salem. Linda plans on inviting Polk County to join us. Marion County is already competitive in riding; we also need to be competitive in knowledge. Contact Linda at 503-551-2397 for information for date and times of practices.

**Horse Show:** The horse show has been rescheduled and will be held on October 3rd, same place, same classes. It will have an 8am start time. The riders who pre-entered the original show need not worry as Amanda still has all of your information.

**Buckaroo Ball:** This fundraising event is going to be held on October 3rd. This is a fund raiser for Marion County 4-H as a whole. The ticket price is $95 with $30 going directly to 4-H. There will be 10 silent auction items, 3 oral auction items. Marion County 4-H is required to sell/purchase 50 tickets. All proceeds from Auction items come back to 4-H. As of the HDC meeting the location of this event is the Old Salem Equipment Building on Hawthorne Ave. between D St. and Market St. in Salem.

Two baskets from the County Fair silent auction and these will be there, other items are tickets to the Oregon Zoo, Willamette Valley Vineyard testing and tour, Enchanted Forest tickets. Businesses are encouraged to donate and to also buy tables. There will be restaurants providing “small plates” and these and desserts are included in the ticket cost so the attendees can partake as often as they wish. This is a 21 and over event. Do you have any connections? If so, encourage them to support the program. Ticket sale forms come back to Melanie. For more information or to purchase tickets online the website is: http://thebuckarooball.org.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bentz
Committee Secretary
8/10/15
REMINDER: Starting with the October meeting clubs will be required to have someone from the club attending 50% of the HDC meetings held. This is the requirement for the club members to be able to participate at fair.