

KSRP BOARD MINUTES
November 15, 2005
Lowell Fire Station 7:00

Board members present: Lynn Schumacher, Rita Kuhnell, Gail Roderick, Carolyn Reinberg, Louise Palczewski
Guests & instructors present: Renee Kane, Helen Gutierrez & Marge Palczewski

I. Committee Reports:

A. Secretary: Minutes were passed out tonight. Accepted as written.

B. Treasurer: Checking: \$8,031.25
High Interest Checking: \$25,953.54

We also have about \$9,000 in the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

Louise need an itemized bill from the Equiturf people. They charged for mileage and the repairman got lost on his way to the farm. We do not know if we are being charged for his mistake since the bill is not broken down. He only used one bag of material and the repair took approximately 15 minutes. The original bill was for \$400.00. Lynn called them to question why it cost so much, and they immediately cut the bill in half because we are a charity. Rita looked up the cost of materials when the Equiturf was originally installed, and the bill still seems very high for such a small repair. Louise will contact them.

C. Chairman's report: no report.

Renee Kane and Helen Gutierrez were introduced. Renee has stepped into Pat Dignum's role as the new 4-H Youth Development Educator (formerly known as 4-H Agent). Her area is club support and development and Developmental Committee support. Renee has been in the 4-H office in another role for nearly 3 years. Helen is the Kent County/MSU Extension Administrator. Betty Blase, Kent County 4-H Director was our guest last month and she shared what she learned from us with Renee and Betty. Our overall concern is with the shrinking support of the 4-H office and staff. They explained: there has been a 2/3 cut in support staff in the 4-H office. The remaining staff has had their duties changed and a lot of upset, including the termination of a 15 year employee, to contend with. Things are smoothing out and moving forward now. Renee and Betty think there are some misunderstandings and they don't want KSRP to feel "left out".

We reviewed the "Clerical Support to KSRP, Current Support & NEW changes effective 10-19-04 due to budget cuts" that was presented to us by Pat Dignum at a special meeting attended by Lynn, Louise and Gail. We went through item by item. While most of the reductions in postal mailings have been replaced by e-mail and forms which can be downloaded from our web site, we were still concerned about the 4-H office maintaining our mailing lists. Betty felt that the 4-H office can continue this job, and KSRP is asked to submit all address changes, additions and deletions to Renee Bainbridge. The 4-H office will continue to prepare (address and deliver for bulk mailing) our Ride-A-Thon mailing in July, plus 2 newsletters annually. Louise is concerned about duplications in our mailing lists. For example: Amy Plets is listed as an aide, volunteer and Ride-a-Thon volunteer. It will be our responsibility to remove her from both aide and volunteer lists and list her as an Instructor. Renee will get complete mailing lists to Gail and Lynn and we will work on removing duplications. We will have to accept some duplications because the program Renee B uses will not allow her to remove every duplication without removing that person entirely from our mailing lists. While we do not want to waste money with redundant mailings, we cannot risk that person not getting the mailing at all. KSRP will receive 4-H office support for six mailings per year.

Lynn asked if the 4-H office would make copies for her. Lynn had been told by Pat Dignum that they would not. Lynn can have copies made at the 4-H office. Helen said that Lynn can make her copies at the office and that they have a machine that can make hundreds of copies in a matter of minutes. Other 4-H volunteers and support staff have

been taught to use this machine and may help with this job, or Lynn can learn to use it herself. Our other option is using the Lowell Area Schools print shop. Gail had all of our Ride-A-Thon printing done there in addition to a few other small jobs.

On the subject of grants: Renee told us about a service provided by the Michigan 4-H Foundation. They will come into a county and teach interested parties how to write grants and which ones to apply for. Of course, they will take a cut out of any grants won. Renee will look into this service and provide us with details.

On the subject of the United Way: Betty Blase had offered to find out for us how KSRP becomes a "check off" organization for the United Way. Renee will follow up on this. Lynn reported that Sue Siler tried to make a \$25.00 donation to KSRP through the United Way and it was returned to her. They accept nothing less than \$50.00 for one time donations.

Renee said that the 4-H office gets a great deal on riding helmets and that KSRP could resell them at a small mark-up for a fund-raiser.

Renee can see to the link to the KSRP web site from the 4-H web site.

D. Ways & Means: Ride-A-Thon 2006 will be held September 30, the last Saturday of the month. With 5 Saturdays in September next year, we hope there will be minimal conflicts. The Ride-A-Thon committee has not yet met, but we have several ideas to increase the event. Gail asked Renee if the 4-H office can help with publicizing the Ride-A-Thon with media contacts they have established. She felt they could. Gail asked about a publicity publication that the United Way used to distribute which lists all the area media contacts. Renee offered to locate this for us to use. Gail has made several attempt to contact Reese Rickards with B-93 with no luck. It is crucial to have publicity lined up so that event sponsors know they will have their business announced. The Ride-A-Thon committee has talked about reducing sponsorship to \$250.00. We have a budget of \$5,000.

We talked about other funding sources for the 2006 program year. The only other idea out there is a team penning event with the help of Erin Decker. He has put on successful events for other charities. Both Gail and Ginny have contacts with him.

Lynn and Louise think we may be okay financially this year. The sale of the tractor would help.

E. Horse Herd: Rita report that the horse committee will be meeting Thursday. We currently have 14 horses. Gail reports that a mare belonging to Jeane Metsger, Holly, will be available in the spring. Holly is a 17 year old daughter of Sienna. Holly was tried out in the program approximately 5 years ago and was, according to Sherri and Rita, too responsive for many of our riders. She was then placed with 2 different friends of Gail's. Perhaps after spending several years as a trail horse, she would be suitable.

F. Grounds & Maintenance: While Gail vacationed in North Carolina, Tom & Danny Luehrs, Amy & Vince Plets, Jon Hoekstra and our trencher, Tom Hanson installed the new waterer, frost-free hydrant and replaced one of the old double waterers (the other had not come in to Caledonia Elevator). In honor of this LONG OVERDUE job finally being done, we enjoyed some snacks tonight to celebrate. Unfortunately, none of the hard-working volunteers were present tonight, so we'll have to party again in January. Tom Hanson was so impressed with our program and the folks providing the labor that he decided to donate his \$200.00 trenching fee! We signed a thank-you note for him and Louise will send him a donation receipt. Gail will miss writing about the waterers in the minutes. Thank you to all involved in making this happen!

G. Tack & Equipment: The tractor is still up for sale, the price is \$3,200.00. Lynn had a couple of people look, one made an offer of \$2,500.00. We agreed to take no less than \$3,000. Our farrier, Andy DeBoer is interested, Rita reports he has to sell his tractor before he can buy ours.

H. Volunteers/Recruitment: Louise reports that we need more pens. We are not sure that they are being given out.

I. Administration: Rita would like to revise the horse loan/donate forms. Lynn read the addition to the forms that Rita had written. It was very well done. Rita had also written a letter which could be sent to horse loaners advising them of our horse donation policy. It costs the program \$20.00 per year to insure a loaned horse, vs. nothing for a donated horse. We currently have 10 horses in long term loan situations. We discussed the pros and cons of donations & loans, especially when a horse becomes unsuitable, perhaps due to age or health issues, and who becomes responsible for the horse's retirement. Also, a donated horse must have a price set for it by a person outside the program. Rita will present this to the horse committee.

J. Public Relations: We viewed the 27 minute tape made September 26 by Karie James from WXTV. It was very entertaining and offered very good information about KSRP and how to volunteer. We do not think it has been aired yet. Thank you to Rita, Sherri, Amy and the volunteers who were interviewed for this piece.

Gail suggested we hold an Open House in June to celebrate our 30th anniversary. This would serve as a great publicity opportunity. She suggested the formation of an ad-hoc committee in order to make the most of the publicity opportunities presented by our anniversary. Ginny Luehrs, Bev Haglund and Deb Schumacher were suggested.

K. Instructors & Aides: no report

II. Old Business: No report on Rivendell and winter classes.

III. New Business: Next meeting is January 17, 2006 at the Lowell Fire Station, 7:00.

Respectfully submitted by: Gail Roderick