

Conference Call Minutes – October 17, 2013

Heike Lewandowski, Kay Van Natta, Sarah Weyker, Kristin Lee and Chuck Kelly were on the conference call.

President Heike began the call with an apology to the Board for not getting a letter out this past month to the membership about the survey results and an explanation for the direction the Board is taking. She had every intention to do so but many things in her personal and work life had gotten in the way and she was unable to work on the letter. The Board asked what they could do to help her and Kay agreed to help draft a letter and Sarah would get the survey results together to include in the letter. The Board agreed that it is very important to get communication out ASAP.

Chuck questioned if the Board had made a final decision about the location of the 2014 show and the Board replied that West Salem was chosen from the results of the survey.

Chuck also brought up a “secret meeting” that he had heard about regarding finding a new show location. Heike and Kristin explained that in August they had met with Bob Long and a handful of other NFHR members to look at a possible location (West Salem) for an Evaluation in 2014. Bryan Simonson organized a tour of the facility. Bob is currently on the NFHR Board and is responsible for scheduling Evaluations in the nation. Chuck questioned Bob Long’s intent on organizing a small group without the knowledge of the entire Board. Heike and Kristin assured the Board that this was not an official Board activity and they were not making decisions for the club. Heike and Kristin explained that Bob’s intent was to schedule a 2014 Evaluation in the Midwest and wanted to explore the possibility of having a clinic or show with the Evaluation to draw the most interest from the Fjord owners. There was also discussion about splitting or starting a new club since the Midwest Club’s membership is down and many past and present owners are discouraged with the club. The group felt that it would be best to try to work together.

Chuck also heard that there were two individuals that had attended the general meeting in Cedar Rapids and that these people didn’t feel like they had a voice at the meeting. Sarah expressed concern that our membership feels that way.

There was discussion about having a 2 or 3 day show at West Salem and it was decided to plan a 3 day show since last year’s showbill warrants it. Kay suggested that some of the walk-trot classes be cut and Kristin agreed. Heike suggested that if the Evaluations need 2 ½ days, the show could possibly be shortened.

The Board decided to share a judge with the NFHR in order share expenses. Chuck questioned if the evaluators were qualified to be judges. Kay felt that the evaluators would be the most knowledgeable of any to judge the Fjords. Chuck was concerned the evaluators may not understand how to judge classes like showmanship. Kristin

suggested inquiring as to what judge's cards the evaluators hold, which would tell us if they are qualified to judge our classes. Sarah will contact Bob Long to let him know that we are interested in sharing judges and will ask about the judge's card.

Heike will contact Monie Redfield to see if she will continue as Show Chairperson. Sarah will contact Anne Weyker to see if she will be the show secretary.

Membership chairperson, Tish Pasqual, has requested that the Board look at changing the membership renewal dates to January 1 vs. July 1. Tish feels that the July 1 date is confusing and hard to organize especially now that our show numbers are so low that people aren't renewing. Chuck argued that it shouldn't make a difference but Kay and Kristin stated that it would make more sense to change to January 1 to be in line with other organizations. The Board decided to wait on this but agreed that by issuing membership cards at the time of renewal, it may help. Kristin will work on cards with Tish.

The Board discussed the 2014 spring meeting in Minneapolis in conjunction with the MN Horse Expo. Although there was talk at the general meeting in Cedar Rapids to change the location, Heike reminded the Board that the membership had already voted on the MN location the previous year and plans were already underway. Tish Pasqual has secured a meeting room and a block of hotel rooms. Kristin is working with the Expo clinic chairperson to try to add a special clinic regarding the Fjord Evaluation program.

Respectively submitted,

Kristin Lee

October 26, 2013