

**NFHR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WORKING BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 12, 2023
6:05 – 7:57 P.M. MDST
Zoom**

Eric Watness, President, called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. MST

Present: Margaret Bogie, Bonnie Morris, Cherrie Nolden, Lisa Otten, Cady Miller, Kelsey Sayers and Eric Watness. Cynthia Madden joined at the start of the Registrar's Report.

Jeanne Poirier, Registrar, was present in a non-voting ex-officio capacity.

Excused Absences: Sara Jongsma

Membership Zoom Attendees: Holly Durst, K.L.White, Karen Hanson, Kendal Papas, Maria Meister, Michele Harn, Rachel White, Rebekah Lauster, Tricia Albrecht, Rebecca Wilhite, Teresa Kandianis, , Aurora Skurton, Billie Jo Hatton, Bonnie Standing, Carol Cox, Dea White, Denise Klinger, Gloria Waro, Helene Giebers, Miranda Cleveland, Mike Melbye, Andrew Hinrichs, Joni Sherwood, Sammi Korinek, Angela Miller, Ashley Ralph, Jo Wilgus. (2 iphones, Nancy's iphone, Janice's ipad)

Members

1. Kelsey Sayers was welcomed to the Board and will fill the remainder of Gretchen Payne's term ending in December, 2025.
2. Cady Miller was welcomed back from her leave of absence. Sara Jongsma remains on a leave of absence due to family commitments until mid-August.
3. Margaret Bogie agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.
4. The proposed Meeting Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.
5. Approval of Minutes of the May 10 meeting - approved by email on June 30, 2023 and have been posted.

6. Motion (made by Margaret Bogie, seconded by Lisa Otten):

Approval of the June 21, 2023 minutes shall be tabled until Attorney Bell's advice on dissenting is received. It is anticipated that the minutes could be approved by email and posted online by July 21, 2023.

Vote: Ayes – 7 Nays - 0

7. Report from the Chair, Eric Watness: `

- The Moratorium on Social Media posts was promulgated by the Executive Committee and reaffirmed in a vote by the Board at its June 21, 2023 meeting. There are outstanding issues related to social media that need to be addressed by the Board. That work is in process.
 - The Board does not accept any anonymous complaints. The Board does not address disputes between members or with non-members. The Board is focused on the NFHR Bylaws, Rules of Registration, and policy.
 - Complaints being handled by the Board are confidential. The outcome is made public but the substance of and the process by which complaints are handled are not for discussion. This complaint policy complies with Roberts Rules of Order which governs NFHR meetings.
 - Members with complaints and comments were encouraged to email them to the Chair for handling.
- 8. Reaffirmation of Motions Approved by Email:**

Motion (made by Margaret Bogie, seconded by Lisa Otten): The motion of have Attorney Allison Bell review how dissents to the Board is reaffirmed.

Votes: Ayes 5, Nays 1, Not Voting 1

9. Registrar's Report (as of 7/11/23): **Cynthia Madden joins the meeting at this time.**
 - Membership - 2023: 629 – down 6.4% from 2022
2022: 672
 - 2023 Foals – 47 submitted/26 completed to date
EOY 2022 foals: 135
 - Transfers – 2023: 1/1 to 7/11: 123
2022 same date: 139
10. Finance Committee Report: Reviewed by Margaret Bogie as the Treasurer position is open
 - The Balance Sheet as of 6/30/2023 shows an increase of \$4,131.05 in total liabilities and equity for a 2023 as compared to the same period in 2022.
 - The Profit Loss Comparison shows income up by \$1,619.37 in 2023 with the difference attributed to a successful membership renewal campaign in the spring as well as donations. NFHR expenses were nearly \$5,300 below the same period in 2022 with the difference attributed to cost cutting measured taken the by NFHR relating to The Herald. The net income for 2023 was \$2,478.29 to the positive versus a loss of \$7,354.84 for the same period in 2022.
 - The Budget versus Actual report shows how the NFHR is \$8,328.32 over budget on income and \$1,673.97 under budget on expense. Overall net income is about \$2,500 above the anticipated net income for the same period.
 - The Financials show the NFHR is making progress with its actions on the finances. The impact of donations and cost cutting on operations are shown in these reports.
11. Awards Committee: Cady Miller reported that the Committee is restarting and will focus on its noseband fundraiser, as well as reaching out to people showing to encourage awards awareness
12. Membership Committee Report: Bonnie Morris reported that that new memberships and renewals are growing . She raised concerns about communications between the Board and the membership. She ceded her report time to a member who online. He was ruled out of order by the Chair as the end of the agenda was the open forum for member comments. A member may make a motion by sending it to the Board.
13. Evaluation Committee Report: Lisa Otten reported that the Rixeyville Evaluation is full, it has a positive cashflow, the evaluators were agreeable to the schedule and housing.
 - A. **Motion (made by Lisa Otten, seconded by Cynthia Madden):**
The Rixeyville Evaluation application for September 9 – 10, 2023 shall receive final approval by the Board to go forward. Vote: Ayes – 7, Nays – 0 Abstain – 1
 - B. **Motion (made by Lisa Otten, no second required as the motion was approved by the Evaluation Committee):**
The Evansville, WI Evaluation application for August 9 – 11. 2024 shall receive preliminary approval to go forward. Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0
 - C. **Motion (made by Lisa Otten, seconded by Cynthia Madden):**
The qualification time period for applications from the current Evaluator Candidates, Andrew Hinrichs and Samantha Poirier, will start as of September 9, 2023.
Vote: Ayes – 8, Nays – 0
14. Herald Committee Report: Jeanne Poirier reported in the absence of Sara Jongsma. Fifty-five members paid the subscription to receive print copies of The Herald. The feedback she has received has been positive about the digital issue.

15. Fundraising Committee Report: Margaret Bogie reported that preliminary proposals for an annual fund drive and grant applications are in development by committee members, Janellen Cederstrom and Rachel White respectively. These proposals will be sent to the Board in the near future. The board for the Fjords and Friends Fun Fest took up a collection to support the NFHR. Margaret Bogie, Tom Snyder, and Alex Snyder agreed in advance to match the amount collected. \$400 was collected at the Fun Fest and \$400 was paid in matching funds. Funds are being mailed to the NFHR for unrestricted use.

New Business:

16. Bylaws Committee – Margaret Bogie reported that the committee has developed a thought document to help the Board formulate a policy for leave of absences. The goal is to create a policy that will be incorporated into a revision of the Bylaws. A formal Bylaws revision is a longer process that includes feedback from the membership through comments and a town hall meeting. The Bylaw revision process is in development and will be sent forward for Board approval before implementation.

17. Election Committee – Margaret Bogie reported:

- The Election Committee has tested online voting systems for the 2023 NFHR Election (if 4 or more candidates seek seats on the Board). Feedback on the systems has been positive. Paper ballots will be available for members without email addresses on file or those members wanting to opt out of online voting.
- The Town Hall for Candidates in the Election is tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2023. It will be in the same format as last year with a moderator asking all candidates the same set of questions. Answers are time limited. The Town Hall is recorded and made available to membership.

18. New Business

- Cynthia Madden explained the proposed Fundraising Policies and Procedures. It was agreed that the Board would review and following discussion, a motion to approve the final policy would be made by email.

19. Old Business

- **Motion (made by Lisa Otten, seconded by Margaret Bogie):**
The NFHR shall suspend all Facebook communications until the BOD can meet and align on operating procedures and best practices.

The Board ratified in its entirety the Moratorium on Social Media made by the NFHR Executive Committee on June 7, 2023 during its June 21, 2023 meeting. The “temporary moratorium on communication by Board members with the NFHR membership or the public through all social media outlets pertaining to NFHR policies, practices and decision-making that has not received prior approval of the NFHR Board.”

A friendly amendment to the motion was accepted. **Amended Motion:** The NFHR BOD will address and align on the operating procedures and best practices for social media communication by its working meeting on August 9, 2023. Votes: Ayes – 8 Nays - 0

- **Motion (made by Cynthia Madden, seconded by Margaret Bogie):**
The NFHR Board will form a Promotions Committee to focus on external marketing of the Norwegian Fjord Horse. Votes: Ayes – 8 Nays – 0
- Discussion of a B Registry was tabled under Old Business until the August 9, 2023 board meeting. Board members were encouraged to bring their ideas to the meeting.

The main agenda being completed, the meeting was opened to members. Questions/comments were made by Rebecca Wilhite, Angela Miller, Teressa Kandianis, Sammi Korinek, Bonnie Standing, Rebekah Lauster, Michael Melbye, and Rachel White.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m. MDST by Eric Watness.

Submitted by Margaret Bogie, Acting Secretary