

# Equine Advisory Committee

Al Gerstung, Chairman

Cattaraugus County Equine Advisory Committee Meeting  
Cattaraugus County Center  
July 3, 2007  
7:30 pm

**Advisory Committee Members Present:** Allan J. Gerstung, Charlene Aronson, Lenny Brainard, Jim Leising, Leah Leising, Jim Little, Tom Livak, Lori Northrup, Toni Orsini, Veronica Weber, Annie Widger

**Advisory Committee Members Absent:** Sharon Nolan, Teri Parker, Robert Pfohl, Annet Taapken, James Toner, Mary Beth Trenchard, JoAnne Young

**General Attendance:** Barney Aronson, Judy Dalton, Terry Martin

Chairman Gerstung called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

## **Approval of Minutes**

*Leah Leising moved with a seconded from Lori Northrup to approve minutes of the March 29, 2007, April 19, 2007 and June 13, 2007 meetings as submitted. Carried.*

## **Election of Secretary**

Chairman Gerstung opened the floor for nominations for the election of a Secretary of the Committee.

Annie Widger, Mary Beth Trenchard and James Toner were nominated. Annie Widger declined.

Members cast ballots for the position of Secretary. Mary Beth Trenchard received the majority of the ballots cast. Therefore Mary Beth Trenchard is the new Secretary.

## **Quorum Issue**

Discussion on the Quorum issue (or lack thereof).

*Lori Northrup moved with a second from Tony Orsini to set the quorum at 6 or more to vote on any issue that comes before the board rather than 10 upon approval of the County Attorney. Carried.*

Tom Livak will research both the quorum issue as well as an Executive Committee with the County Attorney.

## **Youth Activities**

Lori Northrup outlined the proposed Youth Activities program and how it would work as part of the Bicentennial Celebration for Cattaraugus County.



Lori Northrup submitted a proposed budget for the Youth Activities on the new Bicentennial Budget forms. The request is for \$10,000. \$5,000 for advertising and \$5,000 for free passes to youth 8-18 years of age (140 count approximately).

Other ideas and variations were discussed by the Committee.

### **Stage Coach Tour**

Jim Little discussed the idea for countywide wagon train ride during the Bicentennial Celebration. Crosspatch would host a 2-week wagon train across the county starting in Ellicottville. The wagon train would average 10 wagons. This event should occur in July in order to end at the Cattaraugus County Fair in early August 2008. Stops along the way would be made to coincide with celebrations occurring in the corresponding towns and villages. Wagons and riders are encouraged to join along the route. Much publicity would be generated for the Bicentennial Celebrations as well as the Horse industry within the County. One of the goals of the Committee is to further the awareness of the horse industry in our County.

As the Bicentennial Celebration is a six-month long event, the Stage Coach will be highlighted at many events prior to the Wagon Train in order to hype the big event.

There was discussion in regards to involving youth in this capacity and therefore combining the two interests; horses and youth activities. Suggestions were made to offer a contest to all children 18 yrs and younger. Details are yet to be determined, but one idea was for the grand prize to be a few days on the wagon train "participating in life in the old days"

Jim Little is still working on details of the project, budgets, route, etc.

Terry Martin mentioned that the deadline for budget request would be August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jim Little of The Crosspatch and Charlene Aronson of Rosebud Stables agreed to meet with Terry Martin prior to budget meeting with Jack Searles.

### **Coordination with Bi-Centennial Committee**

Terry Martin is Chair of the Equine Subcommittee of the Bi-Centennial Committee. It was agreed that Jim Little and Charlene Aronson would be liaison with Bi-Centennial Subcommittee along with Terry Martin.

### **Equine Video Project**

Annie Widger explained the progress of the Video Project. The Committee is working with a film student, Diana Heliotis, at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to create a promotional video for the committee/county. The idea is to showcase Cattaraugus County as a desirable place to live, grow-up and retire to with your equine companions. The video will illustrate the diversity of the county and its equine activities. Diana Heliotis was escorted to many farms within the area last month for orientation for preparing for the video footage collection. She will be visiting frequently over the next

year to create this work. This will be an 18-month project. Anyone with footage can also submit it for consideration. Annie Widger and Becky Smith have contact information for Diana.

No projected cost for project other than film. Offers for lodging and transportation would be appreciated.

### **Equine Education Barn**

Annie Widger gave an update on the Equine Education Barn - a new venue at the Cattaraugus County Fair. A great success in 2006, this year's list of events includes many alternative and traditional equine therapies. Massage Therapy with Terry Crisafulli, Barefoot trimming with Sherri Pennanen, traditional Ferrier demonstration with Jahrod Little, Herbals for Man & Beast with Mary Beth Trenchard, and Life Skills Training with Dawn Samuelson. Some other topics will be Saddle Fitting, Handling the Young Horse, Braiding and Grooming Techniques, and Basic First Aid On and Off the Trail. More participants are encouraged. We are looking for a diverse sample of breeds for display during the week. Anyone wishing to bring a horse was encouraged to contact Annie ASAP. Donations are welcomed for giveaways. Volunteers are very much needed to work a day in the Barn. Youth components are welcomed.

Next year "Bicentennial Barn" would be the theme. Also next year, the possibility of having a wagon train circle at the Fairgrounds would be desirable.

### **Other Business**

The Secretary was directed to send a get well card to Robert Pfohl.

The Secretary was also asked to send a thank you to the County Legislators for sending our committee to the Horse World Expo in Syracuse.

Annie Widger, Leah Leising and Mary Beth Trenchard will get together and visit the Legislators, if needed, to thank them in person.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was set for August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, County Center, Little Valley.

### **Adjournment**

*Annie Widger motioned with a second from Jim Little to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Carried.*

**APPROVED AS SUBMITTED AUGUST 8, 2007.**