

BARRINGTON HILLS PARK DISTRICT  
RIDING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Advisory Committee Attendees:

Riding Club: Gigi Iacovelli, Lorelei Benkendorf

Pony Club: Barb McMorris. Andre Van Vuren sent his regrets that he was unable to attend

At large: Juanita Kennedy, Abra Shapiro

Park Board Representative: Steve Allen

Guest: Maureen Crump

Meeting called to order by Gigi at 7:09

**Minutes:** of the April 10, May 3, and July 12, 2016 meetings will be approved at the August meeting of the Advisory Committee.

**Park Board Updates presented by Steve Allen with input from Maureen Crump**

The Park Board met on July 11. A Special Meeting will be set for discussion of the user ordinance.

The Park Board has started discussion on user fees. No specific amount has been set for in district or out of district fees. The Park Board has been in discussion with the Park District Attorney. It was explained to the committee that because the Park District is a public facility the fees that are set cannot be exclusionary or discriminatory but may be different between in and out of district users. The fees may not be arbitrary but must bear relationship to actual costs or needs of the Park District.

The outdoor arena is being addressed. The Advisory Committee was in agreement that it would be important to level the base of the arena before replacing or adding footing. Maureen said that Mike Puffer would be doing the work. Waiting on samples of footing to begin work.

The Advisory Committee was asked for input on scheduling of use of the outdoor arena. Several members suggested that the only really busy time for use of the outdoor was in April, May, and June. There is misunderstanding among users when trainers are giving lessons so a sign on the outdoor at the entrance stating that use is not exclusive might be useful.

The Park Board is investigating hiring a survey to be done to determine usage of the facility.

Bid specs will be put out for a new roof for the indoor. Steve will ask for bids on skylights as well.

**Updates on ongoing projects:**

**Rental requests:** The Advisory Committee approved a rental request for certification testing which had been submitted by the Pony Club for 9/25.

**User Ordinance:** No updates from Riding Club on their proposal to develop a committee to come up with a new format.

**Maintenance issues-** Hoses at wash rack are leaking. Perhaps couplers would solve the problem by removing the damaged areas.

Electric eye to front garage door will be fixed so that it doesn't obstruct first stall door.

**Tree line jumps** – no news from Jane Clement.

**Fencing along Bateman Road:** Lorelei is still awaiting bid from Wilson. The suggested plan is to install an electric eye gate at the main entrance, down the drive so not to keep trailers from turning into drive, and a manual gate at the hunt house entrance. Fencing would then run along Bateman road and along the hound house drive at the border of the Forest Preserve until it gets to the hound house. The trail where riders enter along Donlea would not be fenced.

**Riding etiquette signage** has been posted at entrance of indoor arena

**Riding Club agreement** has been finalized.

### Unfinished Business

Members of the Advisory Committee are required to complete training on the Open Meeting Act.

### New Business

**Limiting number of Trainers, limiting number in group lessons, outdoor arena schedule for trainers, use of calendar for trainers to sign up their lessons, trainers using facility without registering.**

Since there are several issues that involve use of the facility by trainers to give lessons, it was suggested and there was general agreement that it would be a good idea to come up with an overall plan for regulating or managing trainer usage rather than to try to solve specific problems that come up periodically at various times by instituting more rules such as setting specific hours when lessons may be taught in the outdoor. Those rules could create more issues which would then require addressing. Committee members were invited to come to the next meeting with some ideas of how the issues might be addressed by an overall plan. Suggestion was made that input from trainers might be useful. It was unclear whether the total number of trainers approved by the Park Board could be limited and if so what the criteria would be.

Discussion ensued about riding in the Forest Preserve and what responsibility or liability the Park District has in the case of an injured rider, such as occurred the previous week ( an out of town rider was reported to have received a concussion and ambulance was called). The question was raised whether the cross country jumps should be removed after the horse trials. Barb explained that part of the agreement with Pony Club and the Park District as a part of the Intergovernmental agreement with the Forest Preserve is to provide jumps for the public to use and to maintain the horse trial tracks. Damaged or unsafe jumps are rendered inaccessible and typically jumps are moved off tracks at some point where footing is in need of repair. Neither the Park District nor the Pony Club monitors and neither is responsible for riders in the Forest Preserve. The Park District also does not police whether riders have Forest Preserve tags. However, it has become apparent that some people think that if they register as a trainer that gives them permission and access to the Forest Preserve and schooling of cross country jumps. It was suggested that it be added to the trainer information and registration that the registration applies only to the 15 acres of Park District property and not to the Forest Preserve, and provide a link to access the required Forest Preserve tags that all riders are to have when riding out there.

Maureen mentioned that the park district attorney, Andrew Paine, said there could be a reason for a larger than average percentage difference between a resident's lower user fee versus non-residents user fee. The reasoning for the rate differential needs to be documented and would be used as the response in case of a challenge to the user fees.

Members of committee asked to be copied on all trainer applications submitted to park board, minus that person's phone number and street address (to protect their privacy).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb McMorris