

Minnesota Hunter & Jumper Association

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2025

Virtual Zoom Meeting



Attendance

<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Present</i>
Tal Mizrahi '25	X	Meghan Gaddes '27	X	Nicole Salazar '26	
Tracy Grandstrand '25	X	Betsy Keiffer '27	X	Christina Solie '27	X
Ireen Sommer '26		Stephanie Greeninger '25	X	Gina Vlahos '27	X
Emma Gambach '25	X	Kirsten Priebe '25		Meredith Varie '26	
Alyssa Deering '24		Jeni McDermott '25	X	Lauren Wood '26	X
Mia Forbes '26	X	Corey Scott '27	X		

Summary of Motions

Motion	Moved	Second	Approved	Not Approved	Comment
June Minutes approval	Corey	Tracy	X		
Approval of Financials	Betsy	Meghan	X		
Corey on checkbook	Tracy	Jeni	X		
Motion to adjourn	Steph	Betsy	X		

Meeting called to order by Tracy at 7:03 PM

1. Approval of June Minutes- approved

2. Financials statement

- a. Ireen needed to send it to Meghan (work computer), which Meghan sent via dropbox during the meeting. Looked through statement as a group via screen share.
- b. What is the "original MHJA/ carriage house" item? We had questions last time about the buckets, and this is still there.
 - i. Just showing the bank accounts we have (and current balances/ recent activity in each)



- c. One thing we need to differentiate between is Harvest horse show and MHJA horse show. Last time we talked, we said we could get rid of the MHJA horse show bucket?
- d. Donations to Harvest beneficiaries have already been paid by Kaylyn
 - i. In 2024, Kaylyn issued 2 payments (equine innovations, etc)
- e. MHJA recognized horse show sponsorships still need to be discussed
- f. Financial statement approved

3. Harvest Horse Show

- a. Tracy and Greg met with Jennifer from the fairgrounds to discuss the email that was sent. The message was very black and white: absolutely not having horse shows in fall. 4H, champ show, and beef expo are only shows that the fair is keeping. Biosecurity is an issue (E. Coli outbreak in CHS birth center in 2019). In 2020, they wanted to cancel our show then, but now with remodel it's the time. Because our show starts on a Monday, they can't do enough biosecurity.
- b. Fair gave us 2 date options: 2nd week of Mason City, or this current week.
 - i. Can't conflict with Mason City
 - ii. Pat has a horse show in Chicago, Stonegate red pine, but both can both be moved if needed
- c. Tracy has emailed Jennifer and asked for July dates to be ahead of anyone else if we do want it
- d. Initial issues that came up
 - i. We would be competing with Traverse City, Lamplight
 - ii. The fair is raising prices, but we don't know what that will be. Won't be able to do contract until 2026
 - 1. Pat's show is USEF and needs information in earlier
 - iii. Some MHHS committee members aren't doing it again. (Nancy Turner= yes, Nancy G= no, Kaylyn= help with some financials)
 - iv. Takes a lot of volunteer work, people are on vacations during this time, etc
 - v. This week, there are so many other things going on. USHJA special programs.
- e. Worry that we will lose money. Discussion about why MHJA exists if we don't host this horse show, it is currently our main form of income. If we don't have the fair, do we do a spring and fall clinic? Bring MHJA show back? We still have to exist for a reason, membership alone won't hold us together.
- f. We were originally an awards organization to promote horses in MN, then later we took on a horse show. We went many years with only the MHJA show, not MHHS as income.
 - i. This was with 400-600 members.
- g. Question for those who went to the meeting: will they not actually have the state fair horse show anymore?



- i. Fair says it's never profitable for them (they pay more than bring in)
 - ii. In 2026 they will have state fair horse show again
- h. We can't drop MHHS and do nothing. Have to do a clinic, something. No other current facilities in the area that would make it like fall harvest.
- i. Lauren doesn't see support of people from other areas
 - i. People going to Colorado, etc. Other places to go for multiple weeks in a row
 - ii. Tal agrees- doesn't think people will come in July
- j. What about May dates?
 - i. Tracy brought that up, but those dates are set for the fair, not for Harvest. The fair is just junior/ amateur and only 3 days. (ours is longer and has GP)
 - ii. Patty mentioned the fair show might be able to do another day/ expand to a 4- day show next year
 - iii. Spring classic indoors would be enjoyable at the fair, beginning of season thing. Have to have structure in place to make that work
- k. Worrying that they won't give us an idea of what it will cost.
 - i. Last year it went up ~30% in facility cost
 - ii. That was due to an increase in facility rental fee. So much cost before we even walk into the door. (Paying union expenses, etc.)
- l. The date was offered to other organizations before offering it to us. Arabians couldn't do it because another horse show within the mileage limit. Overall disheartening message.
- m. They could lease the facility to us for the week, but Tracy doesn't believe it would be worth buying
- n. Looked back at Kaylyn's 2024 MHHS financials
 - i. Not a big margin between income and expense (\$33,000)
 - 1. Not including charitable donations
 - ii. Facility rental was ~\$82,000
 - iii. Hotels for staff ~\$17,000
 - iv. Look at how much sponsorship expenses were versus how much we brought in with sponsorship money (sponsorship expenses consist of mailings, swag bags, parties, dinner). Betsy has been a volunteer, assistant secretary, recalls that the show has always walked a fine line of breaking even.
 - v. Sponsorship revenue was \$96,000, donation is pulling out of \$33,000. Net income was roughly \$67,000.
 - vi. If we did the July dates, it might start out as a loss the first year
- o. If we put on a smaller MHJA show, it might not be so cost-prohibitive. The problem is, if we don't get the entries, how will we pay the bills?



- p. MHHS has been the only big revenue (other than membership, which all memberships in the area are currently down). Do we move it somewhere else and support another horse show? Do we expand geographical locations?
- q. For now, MHJA BOD is on hold and looking at options. For 2026, we are in line for that date in July. We are waiting on the MHHS committee to see if they can do that date. All pieces would need to come together but Tracy/ Greg have started the process. We want to hear if the fair is willing to give dates, if the committee can do it, what it will cost, etc.
 - i. Some think it's worth trying to do harvest if everything comes together and we go forward with it, but also don't think it's worth losing the money.
 - ii. People going off MHHS committee have been a huge source of sponsorship, going directly to people and soliciting. Wouldn't be able to guarantee those funds going forward. Greg's finding out who's on board, who's resigning.
 - iii. The big issue is not knowing how much the fair will charge us. What they charged us last year has no bearing on what 2026 might bring.
- r. There is the rumor about the track/casino: they want to build a huge building, 2 rings next to each other, center down middle and big schooling at the end. Would be able to take the fence out and have derbies and GPs. Would we use this facility if they built it?
 - i. Tracy told them specifications we would have to have. Stall size, schooling area size, storage, etc... They didn't think that was a problem?
 - ii. Meeting in August with a builder.
 - iii. Tracy has done this with them before but nothing happened
- s. As far as going to another facility out of state, can people who live here in MN afford to turn it into an out of town show? Is it feasible to take it out of town for people we count on?
 - i. Probably not in July at least.
- t. Do we start looking at other options in parallel with waiting to hear back from MHHS and the fair? I.e. what would it look like out of state? Different venues in MN? When we have info from the fair, then we can look at everything together?
 - i. Can some people take the lead on finding alternative options?
- u. **Big point=** MHJA identity: are we an awards organization or a horse show management organization?
 - i. MHJA was not set up to be a horse show management company, which is why the Harvest committee was created. It's another whole animal. Pat would do it for us, not sure where or when (he would decide)
- v. Worry about moving dates to July, so much other stuff going on, most barns already have things going on then.



- i. Maybe we agree July isn't a good time. We can't think of anything closer than even MC that would work. Where would we go?
- w. Are we ok existing as a 501c3 and our only purpose is to hand out awards? Does that fulfill anything? Finances?
 - i. We would still be doing our education and clinics. Maybe we will go back to having an MHJA local show. All the money in the account that has to go somewhere.
 - ii. IF not having Harvest, MHHS will have opinions about where the money goes. But it should go to prize money, awards, and back to membership. That's the intent of the fund.
 - 1. But then what happens once that money is spent? As board members, we would need to find out how to get funding, like clinics, MHJA show, and donations. This isn't the end of MHJA, it did survive before MHHS and did well. MHHS is relatively new
 - 2. Don't think it's out of the question to work on small sponsorship things which could help out with prizes, that kind of thing. Advertisement for them.
 - iii. What about INHJA- they joined forces. What if we had Illinois as an ally?
 - 1. They're zone 5, would be difficult
 - 2. INHJA also doesn't have a horse show and they make it work. We could look at what their books look like, they host their banquet and still get memberships.

4. Horse show sponsorship money

- a. Every year we give a small donation to horse shows that recognize MHJA, and even red pine to support the local horse industry. Tracy didn't want to take money from MHJA for classic shows, but they do advertising, so thinks it can be a minimal amount but she and Betsy will get together to see.
- b. Does anyone have access to a checkbook other than Ireen? There should be 2 people, someone else should have access.
 - i. Corey said she is happy to connect with Ireen
- c. Tracy and Betsy will talk and put it in Whatsapp to approve, and write checks to the shows
- d. Last year we gave to Midstates, Maffitt, Quail Run (a little late but it still helps). The total bill was \$3000 last year for all the horse shows, around \$100 per horse show. Just a good faith gesture

5. Board nominations

- a. Tracy is staying on



- b. Tal is conflicted, doesn't want to be president again (she's served a second term, can't be president again). She's technically off after this year but may be willing to be just a member
- c. Kirsten's off, Emma's off, Alyssa's off (she's an extra)
- d. Steph is off, but she is fine staying on, continuing in the membership role
- e. Don't think Jeni can run again, but there are ways around that...
 - i. Jeni is happy to stay on board, or not be on and just do points!
- f. Nominating committee
 - i. Nicki and Betsy are working on this, theoretically we're supposed to have one person who isn't on the board. One year, whoever was nominations chair said everyone on board should come up with someone to run
- g. 4 are re-running, so we need 5 more candidates
 - i. We could have fewer board members if we wanted, like bringing in 2 new candidates and be at the 14 minimum
 - ii. But also need to look at election procedures (there are rules for how many extra candidates you need to run)
- h. Bylaws and election procedures can be changed by us as a board. Used to be we needed twice as many people on ballot as seats open, now it's 1.5x (we couldn't get enough people to run)
 - i. If we come up with a good slate of 7 people, Betsy just says we could change the bylaws. Let's give it to mid- end of August and see if we can come up with anybody.
 - ii. Send out an email and social media, have them contact mhja6 email address, then forward to Betsy and Nicki

6. Events update

- a. Corey and Meredith are waiting for responses
 - i. Haybales and barbells waiting to hear back, also Angela from SCS
- b. Betsy shared dollars for course walk that were available, Dan planning that for fall Mason City show!

7. Newsletter

- a. Meghan is working on it. Got an email from Heather that she doesn't want to do it a few weeks ago, she sent Meghan what she had. Targeting having content pulled together next week, get it into layout and will send it to Betsy for review
 - i. It will be in digital format
- b. For each barn, we still send a copy, and advertisers automatically. If other people do want an issue in print, they can let us know. She's talked with Sarah about details



8. Old business

9. New business

Meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm

Additional Topics Discussed Out- of- Meeting (prior to next meeting)

Summary of Motions

Motion	Moved	Second	Approved	Not Approved	Comment