

Equestrian Center Boarders Meeting

Nov. 15, 7 p.m., Dakota Lodge

Chris Pacetti introduced the Equestrian Center Task Force. He said the Master Association Board is getting ready to approve the budget for 2018.

Accomplished in 2017:

- Finished school barn
- Got rid of pigeons in shed row
- Painted office, shed row
- Arenas done this year
- Replaced groomer
- Updated electricity in shed row

On the list for 2018:

- Paint more buildings
- Update lower panels
- Replace tractor
- Both tack rooms will be painted next spring

Where does funding come from for Equestrian Center? Funding has two sources: Boarding fees and Master Association dues. Equestrian Center has a separate budget to track costs, but most are paid with boarding fees. Tractor and buildings paid for out of Master Association dues. This year \$80,000 was spent on arenas and \$15,000 on fencing material. Money spent on new riding school and painting came from Master Association. Utilities paid for out of Equestrian Center revenue.

There were some lighting changes to replace incandescent lighting to low-energy use in order to save money and have brighter bulbs.

The Master Association Board recommended reappointing the task force to review:

- Policies and practices
- Waitlist
- Resident and non-resident boarding
- Fees
- Changes to mixture of horses in each area
- Independent trainer roles, responsibilities, benefits, fees
- Assess need for part-time maintenance person at the EC
- Community outreach programs

Questions and Other Discussion:

- Indoor Riding Arena: Really hard to push button for indoor lighting so staff is looking into moving the button to turn on indoor lights.
- Discussed budget for next year and recommendations from task force.
- Boarder brought up information found online about arena footing subgrade. Should last 5-10 years according to online source, but this doesn't take into account heavy usage.

- Boarders wondering if it is part of the contract to review sand depth and leveling.
- Footing is the same material as base for C-470. Split arenas never had road base before now. Three outdoor arenas have round sand. Indoor arena has granite sand. Good riding material with rubber in it. Stone dust as well. Can't use outside because it would turn to concrete with weather. It is the boarders' job to level sand with the groomers.
- What was the reason for splitting the outdoor arenas? Primary reason was drainage. When combined they didn't drain.
- Earlier grading and footing didn't work very well.
- Questions on two-year timeframe for replacing footing in the arenas. No consensus on how often arenas should be redone. Ours is at the highest end of usage, so anyone who says their footing lasts 10 years, ask how much usage. If we get to two years and don't need it done, then Equestrian Center may reduce rates.
- Question from boarder: Are you looking at outdoor and indoor for usage since they may be different? Urine and manure in indoor may change time cycle.
- A boarder said uneven footing needs to be leveled as soon as possible to avoid injuries and need to talk about whether we have the equipment to do that. One boarder would like to see one of the arenas flat, but it won't work with drainage issues.
- If going to maintain areas as long as possible, we may need to close arenas when weather is really bad. If we don't close arenas, we are compromising the base again as well as spending. Educate boarders on arena care and why closing them may be best option during bad weather.
- How would you regulate lessons, lunging, boarders? Possibly discuss a schedule.
- Horses leery of windows in indoor area at night. Frost them? Blinds?
- Sign-ups for trainers for time slots during evening in indoor arena in the winter.
- Staff said please do not go on paved paths and make sure to pick up poop. Possibly add a sign on gate: "Please pick up poop."
- Need a yield sign crossing from island toward North Ranch. This is County property.
- Discussed possibility of having someone from the Equestrian Center volunteer for Trail Club.
- Driveway drainage just completed.
- Projects coming next year: County going to fix where drainage pipe comes out by trail from Equestrian Center on north side. Possible realignment.
- Want to recognize Sierra and the guys for their hard work.
- Discussed boarding rate increase: \$10 increase in boarding; \$20 just for footing in the financials. A total of \$360 per horse per year. People worried about a hay surcharge on top of increase.
- Boarding increase is going to be topic at Dec. 5 meeting to approve the budget for increase in 2018. Currently in draft budget to approve the increase.