

- CONNECTING -  
*through*  
HORSES

**MINUTES**

January 28, 2023  
Sagehill Stables Boardroom,  
4180 Waverley Street, Winnipeg

**Present:** Annelise (Lisa) Fritz, Bob McConnomy, Gwen Donohoe, Karen Lagadi  
and Jo-Ann Park

**1 - Adoption of Minutes - January 15, 2023**

*Moved by Karen Lagadi,*

*That the minutes of the January 15, 2023 meeting be approved as submitted.*

*Carried*

**2 - Mission Statement**

Proposed draft Mission Statement as edited on January 15, 2023

Connecting Through Horses strives to promote health and wellbeing by enhancing life skills and increasing accessibility and opportunities to equestrian activities for underserved or marginalized populations in Manitoba.

Discussion ensued. Amendments contemplated on draft statement. Consensus reached on Mission Statement.

*Moved by Annelise Fritz,*

*That the following be approved as the Mission Statement for Connecting Through Horses, namely:*

*Connecting Through Horses strives to enhance the well-being of individuals by creating opportunities and offering access to equine activities for the underserved communities in Manitoba.*

*Carried*

**3 - Guiding Principles**

Suggested Guiding Principles to be discussed:

1. Promote health and wellbeing by providing specific services using horses that have been demonstrated to improve physical, mental or spiritual wellbeing for selected participants, drawing from underserved or marginalized populations including but not limited to youth,

## Connecting Through Horses - Minutes - January 28, 2023

women, indigenous peoples, seniors, at-risk populations, person with disabilities and mental health disorders, new Canadians, veterans and first-responders, agriculture producers, or those who are financially unable to participate in horse activities.

2. Enhance education and knowledge that demonstrates the benefits equine activities provide for health and wellbeing by providing educational opportunities, training and facilitating research.
3. Ensure all volunteers are fully vetted and trained as appropriate for activities they participate in.

Discussion ensued. Amendments contemplated on draft Guiding Principles. Consensus reached on updated Guiding Principles. More discussion deemed required at next meeting.

*Moved by Gwen Donohoe,*

*That the following be approved in principle, and tabled to the next meeting for further discussion and in order to receive any additional feedback, namely:*

*Connecting Through Horses seeks to*

1. *Promote respect amongst one another, equines and within our community.*
2. *Work together to resolve challenges in thoughtful and meaningful ways.*
3. *Seek to create opportunities for equine activities for those underserved.*
4. *Support and recognize its volunteer base, both people and equines.*
5. *Network to form partnerships with individuals, local businesses and organizations within the community.*
6. *Annually define the specific opportunities and programs to be offered.*

*And That the annual definition of programs and opportunities for 2023 be tabled until the next meeting, namely:*

*For 2023, focus on providing opportunities for children at summer camps, along with providing opportunities to seniors groups to visit and interact with the horses, as provided by Sagehill Stables.*

*Carried*

### **4 - Lac La Croix Indian Ponies (Ojibwe Horse)**

Gwen provided an update on her discussion with Louise from Aurora Farms and the Save the Lac La Croix Ponies Group on a proposal to consider the re-homing of the remaining nine (9) Lac La Croix ponies at Sagehill Stables.

The community at Lac La Croix is not able to care for the ponies, however before the ponies are gifted and transported, a long-term sustainable plan to support this endangered breed of ponies would be required.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Logistics for rehoming the remaining 9 ponies at Sagehill Stables
- Financial projections approximated at \$4000 per pony (\$35 to \$40k annually)
- Suggestion of sponsors for \$50 per month, with 60 to 70 being required

## **Connecting Through Horses - Minutes - January 28, 2023**

- Pursue avenues for funding opportunities, i.e. government grants
- Require hired or volunteer trainers to work with the ponies
- Question on future breeding, so as to continue this endangered species
- Attracting new clientele to Sagehill Stables
- Opportunities for indigenous healing activities
- Opportunities for essential care and groundwork programs
- Recognition that ponies would not likely be good candidates for lesson horses
- Networking resources and opportunities include the Ojibwe Horse Society and other Canadian Farms that home the ponies, i.e. Aurora Farm

*Moved by Gwen Donohoe,*

*That Gwen be requested to explore this opportunity to re-home nine Lac La Croix ponies at Sagehill Stables, and report back to a future meeting.*

*Carried*

### **6 - Fundraising - Spring Break Week**

Due to time constraints, a brief discussion ensued relative to hosting a “Snack Shop” on one day during the Spring Break Week, including a hot dog bar and a treats table, in conjunction with other activities planned at Sagehill Stables.

Lisa consented to initiate planning for a hot dog bar, and Jo-Ann consented to initiate planning for a treats table (baking, cookies, equine treats). Consensus more discussion required.

*Moved by Gwen Donohoe,*

*That Lisa and Jo-Ann be requested to commence planning for a hot dog bar, and a treats table, respectively, and report back to the next meeting.*

*Carried*

### **7 - Items Deferred - Next Meeting**

The following items were deferred to the next meeting, namely:

- Nominations for Positions
- Networking Opportunities
- Donations Collected
- Letterhead and Introduction Letter
- Logo Competition