Minutes of the FIRC Board Meeting, Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Present: Suzi McGraw, Sam Castleman, Sandy Newkirk, Sverrir Bjartmarz, Charlotte Reilly, Maureen Henry

Absent: Marcia Newman

Treasurer's Report: Not given. It is believed that the club checking account balance is approximately $ 3,204.48

Old Business:

Club Liability Insurance

Suzi McGraw obtained quotes from three equine activity insurance companies and inquired about premiums for few- to many public venue activities, such as trail rides and shows where non-club members participate and demonstration rides that the Club might participate in.

The high end insurance that covers many activities that the FIRC is not likely to be engaged in would cost in the neighborhood of $1,200. The other two quotes that would cover a few public activities to very few public activities ranged from $400.00 to $600.00 per year. Board members with business experience with insurance found that buying broad coverage—which often turns out to require additional riders anyway for specific activities-- was not as effective as buying riders to a basic policy whenever the Club decided to participate in events involving non-club members. A vote was taken and that solution passed 5-1. Maureen Henry was the dissenting member as she felt that the middle quote was a good deal. Sverrir had already checked into insurance requirements for a possible sanctioned show at Frying Pan Park in VA and found that the lower cost Merkel policy would cover those requirements. Thus, the board voted to buy the basic insurance from Merkel at $400.00/year with the understanding that riders would be needed for some Club activities.

New Business:

Upcoming Activities:

August, 2011

Sverrir said that he and Mitch Martin will host a Club ride at the Manassas Battlefield on August 28. Details will be posted on the FIRC website.

September 2011

The September Gudmar Petursson clinic is fully booked, auditor slots are still open and will be advertised on the FIRC website.

Several FIRC members will participate in the TROT judged trail ride on September 10. This will be posted on the FIRC website and members are urged to take part as it is for charity and the requirements are well suited to all riders, even those with little or no judged trail ride experience.

The Charles Town Parade of Horses will be held in September this year. The board considered the feasibility and desirability of participating at that time of year and decided that an alternative parade would be better attended, given the crowded September calendar and other considerations. Shepherdstown will celebrate its 250th anniversary this year and the Christmas parade will be part of a big celebration. Participating in the Christmas parade will also allow us to use Christmas décor, which we've already bought. Suzi McGraw will get further information and publish this on the FIRC Calendar.

October 2011

Katrin Sheehan will be offering a FIRC clinic from 14-16 September at Stoney Lick Farm or Flying Change Farm. There are rider openings available for this clinic.

October, 2011

Gudmar Petursson's sanctioned show in Kentucky will be in early October. Curt Pierce will be transporting horses from our area to that show. It was moved and seconded that the club provide a modicum of financial support for those FIRC members who will be representing the FIRC at that show. A total of $400 from the treasury will be available to be divided among FIRC members who will transport their horses to that show. The funds will be divided among the FIRC applicants, with a maximum stipend support of $100 per membership (e.g. per family or per individual).

Sara Leiter is holding a schooling show on 28-29 October, which some members may want to attend.

The camping trip planned by the TennesseeWalking horse group for 20-23 October will be posted on the FIRC website, but due to a crowded October calendar, FIRC will not make this a club activity per se. Anyone wishing to go must join the host club to meet insurance requirements of that club.

Laura Colicchio will sponsor a Halloween trail ride on 29 October with a rain date of 30 October.

November, 2011

A Turkey Tolt trail ride is planned and the Board will approach Barbara Sollner Webb about hosting it, and the repast that traditionally follows. Her farm is ideally located close to Rocky Gorge Park .

December, 2011

The Shepherdstown Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 3. Suzi McGraw will get the requisite information about FIRC participation. Following the parade, Suzi and Sandy Newkirk will host the annual FIRC Membership meeting at Flying Change Farm. Shepherdstown is about 8 miles from the farm.

FIRC's Ten Year Anniversary

Two major activities are being considered to celebrate FIRC's 10-year anniversary:

1. Daytime Icelandic Horse Breed demonstrations at the Horse World Expo in Harrisburg, PA. Sam Castleman is looking into USIHC financial support for the breed booth. Booth plus one expo stall

will run $300 for the weekend. Demo horse stalls will cost $75.00 for the weekend. FIRC members will be asked to man the booth in shifts and to volunteer for the demo rides. Curt Pierce will be taking on the evening show for which he will receive remuneration from the HWE organizers. FIRC members who take part in the demo will receive $50.00 from the FIRC treasury in financial help to offset the stall fees. Sandy Newkirk will organize the demo.

A FIRC board meeting has been scheduled for 15 September to finalize decisions and planning for this event.

2. Sverrir Bjartmarz, Sali Peterson and Pat Moore are looking into sponsoring a sanctioned show at Frying Pan Park or another venue in Virginia next spring. Sverrir has spoken to the Frying Pan Park organization regarding venue rental, insurance and other requirements. Rental of the facility runs $1,000 for the weekend, which seems very reasonable. Sverrir, Sali, and Pat will report their findings at our next board meeting in the middle of September.