

The Florida Whips Annual Meeting

May 14, 2022

Held at the Grand Oaks

Prior to the start of the meeting Kayce and Tricia Lynn announced the winners of the events held during the Southern Drive and presented awards.

President Bob Giles called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice President Linda Evans then led those that wanted to participate in the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary Janet Carswell took roll call of the Board of Directors.

The agenda of the meeting was voted on and approved.

Secretary Janet Carswell read the minutes from the previous annual meeting held in 2021. Linda Evans motioned for approval, Louise Leister 2nd, minutes voted on and approved.

Opening statement by President Bob Giles – attached to these minutes.

Opening statement by Vice President Linda Evans – thanking everyone and letting everyone know that there would be a new vice president as her term of service was ending.

Opening statement by the Treasurer Beth Rieselman – she also let the members know that there were print outs available for them to review – budget and financial status of the regions and the club. The club's 501c3 status is incorrect and expires June 13, 2022. We need to refile completely to correct the status as IRS has been no help in rectifying the problem. Approximately \$900 to refile.

Susan Guinan details of current status and will the refiling be completed before the current status lapses? Are we going to be without a 501c3 status in the void of the refiling?

Kathryn Powell refiling is the best choice with an overwhelmed IRS

Jason Reynolds talk to a lawyer about possible lapse in status

Denise Klinger need more information

Jim Thomas made the motion to move forward with the refiling but to make sure we were covered during the time it takes to refile and correct our status

Lynn Parker 2nd Voted on and passed

Two \$300 youth scholarships were given out to the Junior Drivers that competed at Live Oak International.

Opening statement by the Secretary Janet Carswell – thanking everyone for their patience during her first term. Informed the club that there would most likely be an increase in the cost of insurance the next show season.

Opening statement by the Membership Chair Sandy Hebert 207 current members, 47 new members in 2022, 56 members did not renew.

Lynn Parker motioned to accept, Denise Klinger 2nd, Voted on and passed

Opening statement by the Youth Chair Kami Landy – looking for committee members and guidance to grow the outreach program to youth drivers. Possibility of coming up with a youth driver directory – where they can find trainers, people with equipment. She asked for someone to step in and take over the director position. Karen Cherry volunteered.

Wanda Funk motioned to accept Karen Cherry as the new Youth Director.

Janet Crumpton 2nd Voted on and passed

Opening statement by N. FL Director Betsy Skinner – very active northern group of drivers, lots of events and weekly training opportunities. Thanks to Iron Horse and Tickety Boo Farms for their continued support of driving. Black Prong Equestrian Village is a sight to behold if you haven't been. So blessed in my area to have so many places to drive. My term is over, and I will be moving to Tennessee. Thank you for the opportunities and the friendship.

Opening statement by S. FL Director Anne Raisner – SE region had an event every month. Deb Bennett held two events and junior drivers only paid ½ tuition to attend. Susan Guinan hosted several events. Elizabeth Keathley was a very good clinician.

Election of Officers

Election of President – Linda Evans nominated Bob Giles to have a second term. Membership voted him in for a second term unanimously.

***Tricia Lynn took the floor out of order and started verbally accusing Linda Evans and Bob Giles of removing her from her BOD positions without cause, Bob and his wife of spreading lies by calling people, she was never given the option to defend herself against the allegations. Beth Rieselman confronted Tricia Lynn over the items that were not returned to the club after the silent auction in 2021 and that Tricia Lynn sold the items on eBay for her own interest. The club members were

all objecting to Tricia Lynn being on the floor and out of order. Tricia Lynn was finally removed from the floor and escorted from the meeting. The election of officers continued.

Election of Vice President – Linda Evans nominated Lauren Reece, Jim Thomas 2nd, voted on and approved by the membership

Election of Membership Chair – Linda Evans nominated Gail Thomas. Lynn Parker and Janet Crumpton 2nd, voted on and approved by the membership

Election of Youth Director – Karen Cherry volunteered as she has past experience with pony clubs and will work with Kami Landy. Motion by Jim Thomas, 2nd Denise Klinger, voted on and passed by the membership.

North Florida Regional Director – Betsy Skinner nominated Janet Crumpton, Lynda Jowers 2nd, voted on and approved by the membership. Su Zi is the alternate director. Linda Evans made the motion to accept, Janet Crumpton 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership.

SE & SW Florida Regional Director – The regions will keep their monies separated, but have one director. Anne Raisner volunteered to be the director and Bettina Scherer will be the alternate and Susan Guinan will support both of them in the southern region. Lynn Parker made the motion to accept, Lynda Jowers 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership.

Newsletter Editor – Delight Craddock volunteered to take over the position. Denise Klinger made the motion, Janet Crumpton 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership. Beth Rielselman showed Delight and the membership the historical documents and pictures gifted to the club by Tom Warriner. Beth also shared the this was the 40th anniversary of The Florida Whips.

Website Design and Maintenance – Veronica Close stills wants to be the webmaster for the club. It has been difficult lately since her and her husband have been struggling with health issues. Mary Phelps asked if we could have a backup person incase something happened to Veronica? It was discussed and Veronica will be contacted to see how an additional person can be added to assist with the website. Linda Evans nominated Denise Klinger to assist with the website, Janet Crumpton 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership.

Marketing Chair – Sandy Hebert is staying for another term. Sandy mentioned that the cost of printing is going to increase for the club’s annual calendar and events flier.

Volunteer Recognition – Sandy suggested that it might be easier to track volunteers if we made the organizers of FL Whips events submit a list of volunteers with their event reports. Volunteers submitting their own hours is not working. Looking at better ways to track volunteer hours – maybe make a link on the website. Mention it every month in the newsletter.

Newsletter discussion – cannot afford to mail the newsletter every month. One mailing to all members cost \$732.00. Does the membership want monthly, quarterly newsletters, September through May or all year? Monthly newsletter, Kathryn Powell made the motion, Lynda Jowers 2nd, voted on and approved by the membership.

Kami Landy made the motion to have an email sent out to all of the members with an attachment of the monthly newsletter, plus having it posted on the website and links posted on Facebook pages. Delight Craddock 2nd, voted on and approved by the membership.

Sandy Hebert reminded everyone that a mass email may dump it into the spam folder. Everyone will have to check and work out the kinks to mass emails.

Lynn Parker reminded everyone to fill out the registration for membership legibly to ensure correct email.

Denise Klinger suggested maybe smaller mass mailing groups to possibly have less going to spam folders.

Delight Craddock wanted to know if the newsletter should be members only and not posted on the website? Making the newsletter for members only.

Sandy Hebert said that the club does not manage passwords for the website, so making it password protected on the website would be too much.

Karen Cherry newsletter encourages non-members to join, so leave it on the website.

Jim Thomas motioned for the newsletter to remain on the website, emailed to members and that Delight Craddock and the BOD should meet at a later date.

Denise Klinger 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership.

Sandy Hebert – does the club want the membership dates to run September through August or January through December? Do they want it 12 months from when you join or due the same time every year?

Beth Rielselman wanted it from when they joined since some members join in April and then had to renew again in September.

Lynda Jowers – run membership from September through May to follow the driving season. If you pay late then you pay again in September.

Wanda Funk – September through May adds money at the beginning of the season to the club account.

Denise Klinger motioned for September through May and dues on September 1st, Linda Evans 2nd, voted on and passed by the membership.

Jason Reynolds, Executive Director of the Florida Horse Park and Gier Kastand presented the Bridge Obstacle to be built at the park – requesting a \$5,000.00 donation from the Florida Whips. The cost of the obstacle will be between \$30,000 to \$35,000, \$23,000 has already been raised toward the project. Engineers changed some of the original drawing – concrete culverts will be used, 18-meter bridge with a safe slope for all level of drivers to safely use. The bridge will be covered in grass.

The FL Horse Park was the winning bid for the Chester Weber fundraiser for the bridge at \$2500 and there will be a drawing of 3 names on May 24th to go on the breakfast and ride-a-long.

Lynn Parker announced that half of the 50/50 drawing goes towards the bridge.

Questions about the \$5,000 donation by members:

Lauren Reece – building the bridge and redoing the obstacles – how does this benefit the FL Whips? Training days are great, but still have fees involved. I would like to see some benefit to the club.

Jason Reynolds – the FHP is not state run, we are a 501c3, we do not receive funding from the state. I don't care if it is USEF, ADS, or the FL Whips – I am open to more driving shows at the park. Trails are always free, but to use the obstacles then yes, there is a fee involved.

Lynda Jowers – one day show – would the club pay a fee for the venue and \$5,000 for the bridge?

Jason – must discuss fees even with a donation from the club.

Lynda – so the club makes the donation and still must pay full price to use the facility?

Jason – driving loses money and at some point I have to answer to the financial backers of the park.

Delight Craddock – is a course designer involved in the construction of the bridge? A lot of lower level drivers would not be using the bridge. For the \$5,000 donation

– what overall benefit will the drivers get? Bylaws of the club drive the direction of the club and it is not all about competition.

Gier – bridge will be beginner safe and is designed by a course designer.

Karen Cherry – we are not allowed to just drive at the park, the park is not open for drivers everyday.

Linda Evans – projected budget for the club is \$8947.00 and Gier is asking for more than half of it for the bridge.

Betsy Skinner – give him the \$5000 as a good will gift.

Bob Giles – so my proposed amount is \$1,000 and as a pledge – if the build goes forward then we give him the check.

Julie Forsyth – why is the day fee amount more for drivers then riders? It is listed right on the website. Drivers pay \$50 and riders pay \$25?

Jason – it is only a \$25 day fee. Driving the trails is always free.

Julie – what do I get out of the donation to build the bridge? Free day passes?

Jason – trying to do more schooling days

Julie – we still must pay for schooling days. How is that a benefit?

Carol Fitzhugh – I called the park and was denied access

Jason – park is open. I don't know why you would have been told that.

Jack Martin – driving could end at any other venue that is private – Grand Oaks, Black Prong. The FHP is the only public driving venue. Everyone seems to care about the youth, but no one wants the old people.

Member – why doesn't the other disciplines that are going to use the bridge pitch in?

Jason – eventing doesn't see the bridge as a priority – difference in priorities.

Susan Guinan – hearing from the room full of members, Gier – you want the bridge. Was there a committee? Is there a better investment besides the bridge? If this group invests, how do we get some dates that are not during the week?

Member – I think the bridge is a good idea.

Mary Phelps – I am on the Board of Directors for the Florida Horse Park. The park is crazy busy, and everyone loves the training days. You can get dates for one day shows but getting dates for a 2- or 3-day show is not possible. The obstacles that have been redone are wonderful and anyone can come and school in them. We have a meeting scheduled with Marc Johnson. There are 8 dates on the books plus the Spring Fling. In 1 ½ years we have upgraded all the obstacles. I am open to a discussion on benefits. A main benefit are the scheduled training days. Gier leaves the obstacles marked and the cones course up, so even if you miss the scheduled day – you can still come back and train. That really is the icing on the cake. I will

work on benefits to the club for the donation to the bridge.

Member – are any dates on the weekend? I work during the week.

Stephanie Van Den Hurk – I work on the weekends too. What benefits would this give me?

Mary – parked is booked for weekend dates a year in advance. Stride is expanding driving. Stride needs more entries to expand the driving offerings.

Bob – can we have a motion for a donation?

Betsy Skinner – I motion for the Florida Whips to pledge \$2000 for the construction of the bridge at the Florida Horse Park. Helena Smejea 2nd, voted on and passed.

A ballot will now be mailed out to all of the members of the Florida Whips to approve the \$2,000 donation. 51% of the members are needed for the donation to be sent.

Wayne Humphries said if there were not enough members present to approve the donation for the Florida Horse Park then the election of officers was not valid because of the lack of members.

It was explained to him that the election was valid because it fell under a different rule per the club by laws.

Lynda Jowers made a motion to have Tricia Lynn removed from the membership of the Florida Whips – she is a disruptive member, sold items from the club's silent auction on eBay for her own personal gain.

Member – what do the club bylaws say

Linda Evans – members do not need to vote, member can be removed by a vote from the Board of Directors.

Denise Klinger – might be better just to leave her membership alone and easier not to allow her to renew.

Lynda Jowers – turning it over to the Board of Directors.

Linda Evans presented the canvas prints of the juniors that competed at Live Oak International this year. Gier for his granddaughter. Bob Gilles for his student, Sarah. Marianna and Patty for Ethan Yeager.

Bob Giles thanked Marianna for a great 1st show at Equinox Farm and was looking forward to the next show on October 15th.

Sandy Hebert presented Volunteer of the Year to Bob Giles

Denise Klinger presented Member of the Year to Janet Carswell

Club high point ribbons presented by Denise Klinger.

Sandy Hebert announced the winners of the club's photo contest for the upcoming club calendar.

Su Zi won the 50/50 raffle – over \$300! The other half donated to the bridge obstacle.

Meeting adjourned

Silent auction items close at 5pm

Respectfully submitted by Janet Carswell