

FHANA Member Council Minutes: February 15th, 2023

Present:

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairman)
Scott Kelnhofer – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association (Vice Chairman)
Anna Osinga – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association
Mark McGowan – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club
Klazien Sietzema – Alberta Friesian Horse Association
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club
Jaime Caesar – New England Friesian Horse Club
Pam Groom – Florida Friesian Horse Club
Carrier Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association
Robin Spaeth – Friesian Horse Association of Oklahoma
Erin Miley – FHANA Board Liaison
Angie DePuydt – Administrator
Caron Osborn – Administrator

Absent:

Lisa Baker – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East
Sharon Bechler - Central California Friesian Horse Club
Lori Brock – North Michigan Friesian Club
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association
Joe Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club
Beatrice Whiteley – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club
Danielle Barrasso - Friesian Horse Association of New England

1. Opening Remarks. Mr. Laude called the meeting to order at 8:02 pm EST.

2. Approval of January 2023 Minutes. Ms. Osinga made a motion to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. McGowan. Ms. DePuydt commented that she left off Ms. Spaeth off the attendance list and would like to correct that. The amended motion passed unanimously.

3. FHANA Board Updates. Ms. Miley encouraged everyone to attend the FHANA AGM. Several webinars are coming up soon, and she encouraged chapters to attend them or watch the recordings. Will Bron and Eric Smith were elected to the FHANA board. The KFPS Member Council nominations are now open. The election will take place from March 15th – 30th. The 2022 end-of-year FHANA membership number was 1,888. That is the highest since 2014. The FMC's most recent recommendations to the FHANA board were considered. The board declined to the recommendation to announce candidates for the FHANA board of directors immediately after they accept their nomination. The board also declined the recommendation to place candidates on the ballot in the order in which they accept their nominations. The board did accept the FMC's recommendation to publish candidate biographies prior to the town hall meeting.

4. Chapter Renewals. Ms. DePuydt reminded chapters that if they have not renewed their chapter affiliation, they have until March 31st. There have been issues with the renewal applications due to the timing of memberships which expire on January 31st each year. The FHANA office will no longer extend chapter status once the deadline has passed. Ms. DePuydt and Ms. Osborn would like to review the renewal process and application to see if there are changes needed to make the process clearer and alleviate applications being kicked back.

5. Nominations for FMC Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. DePuydt reminded everyone that nominations for the FMC Chair and Vice Chair are due prior to the next FMC meeting. Candidates will have the opportunity to speak at the next meeting, and then voting will take place.

6. FMC Rules on Outside Attendees. Mr. Vanderkooy commented that he feels it is important that FMC meetings be open and transparent to all FHANA members. He also feels it is important that the meetings be open as there are some locations in North America where members are not represented by Chapters. Opening the meetings would also allow regular participating guests to gain experience to become future Chapter representatives, which will offer more consistency at times of turnover. Mr. Vanderkooy made the following motion:

That FHANA includes in each monthly e-newsletter a short notice that members are welcome to join our monthly FMC meetings as guests. The notice in the newsletter shall include that anyone wanting to attend as a guest needs to contact their Chapter representative or the FMC administrator directly before the meeting to obtain the Zoom link. In the case where a Chapter Chairperson is contacted by a guest who wishes to attend, the Chapter representative will inform the FMC administrator of the name of the guest before the meeting. The Chairperson of the FMC meeting will include near the top of each monthly agenda the item " Any Guests present, please identify yourself." at which time the chairperson will be aware of how many guests are present and their identities. He/she will then explain that guests may observe but not participate in the meeting with the exception that possibly at the end of the meeting if time allows, he/she may invite comments or questions from guests.

Mr. McGowan seconded the motion. Ms. Osinga asked if a maximum number of guests is appropriate to limit guests. Mr. Kelnhofer is concerned that disruptive guests may attend the meetings and then use information gained from the meetings on social media. Ms. DePuydt commented that the administrators have the ability to mute or remove any disruptive guests and do not have concerns about managing the meeting. Mr. Laude commented that making this change would require an amendment to the bylaws. He asked what the intention of this motion is considering the original structure of the FMC with regard to representation for FHANA members. Ms. DePuydt commented that the administrators could draft language to amend the bylaws. The FMC's bylaws do not specify how they are to be amended, such as by a simple majority or 2/3 majority, so the requirement would defer to whatever the Democratic Rules of Order state. Mr. Laude called for a roll call vote.

Carrie Blair – Abstain
Scott Kelnhofer – No
Anna Osinga – Yes
Mark McGowan – Yes
Klazien Sietzema – Yes

Jack Vanderkooy – Yes
Janice VerMerris – Yes
Jaime Caesar – Yes
Pam Groom – Yes
Robin Spaeth – Yes

Ms. DePuydt asked when this new rule would go into effect. Mr. Laude responded that unless there is an objection, the new rule allowing guests will be effective immediately.

7. B-Book II Committee Progress and Report. Mr. Kelnhofer asked for an update on the B-Book II committee's progress. Mr. Laude responded that the committee had met recently, and the scope of the committee was narrowed to focusing on the assistance needed by the office to handle B-Book II questions and issues. The committee made recommendations regarding administrative support, and they have been sent to the board for action. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that he felt the focus on the administrative aspect was interesting, given the scope of the issue. He also hoped there would be some progress beyond the administrative issues, specifically progress regarding how the FHANA membership will be involved in this issue. Ms. Miley commented that this topic is on the board's retreat agenda, but their first priority was to address the issues the FHANA office is experiencing. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that there has been discussion that a letter was sent to FHANA from the KFPS regarding B-Book II and asked if there is any comment from the FHANA board on this letter. Ms. Miley responded that she was aware there was discussion from members of the committee directly with the KFPS, but the KFPS has new leadership, and she doesn't believe they are aware that FHANA can have more strict rules than the KFPS. Even though the KFPS did send out a letter, FHANA would like first to ask its members how they want to proceed, and the B-Book II committee is working on that diligently. Ms. Osinga disagreed with Ms. Miley. She is on the B Book II committee she was notified about the letter by the KFPS, which asked FHANA to register and inspect B Book II horses in North America. The KFPS' reason for this request is that they want unity, and they want all KFPS affiliates to follow the same rules. Ms. Osinga feels that if she had not been notified, the letter would have been swept under the rug by FHANA. She is deeply disappointed with FHANA for its lack of transparency on this issue. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that the "stricter rules" rule was a verbal statement made by the former Executive Director of the KFPS, and he believes this was a comment, not a rule made by the KFPS board. He believes there is also an appeal when it comes to the possible genetic traits of B-Book II horses.

8. 2023 Inspection Schedule. Mr. Laude reported that the 2023 Inspection Schedule had been published, and the board is considering a 5th circuit.

9. Roundtable Discussion. Mr. Vanderkooy asked if FHANA has a Breeder of the Year award, similar to the KFPS's Breeder of the Year Award, which is based on that year's inspection results. Ms. Miley responded that FHANA does have a breeder's award, but it is a points-based system with three levels. However, breeders must apply for this award themselves. Mr. McGowan asked where FHANA is at on the goal of getting its information translated into Spanish. Ms. Miley responded that many items have already been translated and are on the website. Mr. McGowan stated that some Hispanic-speaking members are having difficulty locating the Spanish version of the inspection application. Ms. Miley will look into this.

10. Next Meeting Date. The next FMC meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, at 8 pm. EST

11. **Motion to Adjourn.** Mr. Kelnhofer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Minutes presented by Angie DePuydt

