

FHANA Member Council Minutes: July 12th, 2023

Present:

Marq Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter (Chairperson)
Scott Kelnhofer – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East (Vice Chairperson)
Carrier Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association
Marvel Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association
Heidi Smith – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association
Mat Jenkins – Central California Friesian Horse Club
Marc DiLeo – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California
Joe Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club
Anna Osinga-Bouma – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association
Jaime Caesar – Northeast Friesian Horse Club
Mark McGowan – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club
Bert Mourits – Alberta Friesian Horse Association
Jack Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association
Janice VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club
Lisa Driver – Friesian Horse Association of Oklahoma
Kay Veinotte – Pacific Friesian Horse Club
Pam Groom – Florida Friesian Horse Club
Erin Miley – FHANA Board Liaison
Angie DePuydt – Administrator
Caron Osborn – Administrator
Katie Wenger – FHANA Member Guest

Absent: Lori Brock – Northern Michigan Friesian Club

1. Opening Remarks & Announcement of Guests. Mr. Laude called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM EDT.

2. Approval of Regular June 12th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Kelnhofer motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. McGowan seconded the motion. Ms. Smith felt the minutes were incomplete and requested specific comments be added to the minutes. Ms. DePuydt asked for guidance in light of the growing requests for more detail in the minutes. She commented that the administrators are happy to include specific comments in the minutes, but it would be helpful if representatives specify when making a comment that they would like it read into the minutes verbatim. Ms. Smith motioned that the minutes be amended to include a statement that the Chair made comments to the FMC council regarding bad behavior, a statement about rules and ethics and that the group needs to abide by them, and a statement that the group needs to move forward on matters of importance and let bygones be bygones. Mr. Vanderkooy called a point of order regarding a second on the original motion to approve the minutes. It was clarified that Mr. McGowan did second the motion. Ms. Veinotte seconded the motion to amend the minutes. Mr. Kelnhofer is concerned about the growing detail and length of the minutes and recommended that in the future, representatives state they wish for something to go on the record if they want certain

statements to be included in the minutes specifically. He hopes that the release of the council's meeting videos, if passed by the FMC, will alleviate the need for such detailed minutes in the future. Ms. Jeffcoat does not think it's unreasonable to add this detail to the minutes. The motion to amend the minutes failed. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

3. Approval of the June 28th, Special B Book II Meeting Minutes. Mr. Vanderkooy motioned to approve the minutes, and Mr. Kelnhofer seconded the motion. Ms. Miley inquired about the stats mentioned in the minutes. Mr. Laude clarified that some chapters provided the number of members they polled, and some reported the outcome of their polling in percentages only. Ms. Smith commented that the data collection from chapters isn't standardized, and she believed that was the task chapters were given and would make the information more meaningful. Mr. Laude responded that each chapter was asked to represent their chapter's position, and the data was not requested to be collected in a specific way. Ms. VerMerris agreed with Mr. Laude that the request was to get feedback for their chapters, not take a by-name vote. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that the motion is to approve the minutes, which are accurate as to what was stated, and that issues about the way chapters collected their feedback is a separate topic. Ms. Osborn stated a correction needs to be made on item number one where Mr. Laude's name is mentioned, "Mr." is missing. Ms. Smith asked if it was stated at this meeting that it was a special meeting about B Book and that the FMC would abstain from talking about it at the next meeting, and it would be brought up again in September. She feels something this important should be included in the minutes. Mr. Laude clarified that what was said was that no motions would be accepted during that meeting about B Book and that they would be reserved for the following meeting. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

4. FHANA Board Updates. Ms. Miley reported the revised Circuit 5 schedule was approved by the board and also includes judging clinics. Members who are interested are encouraged to sign up for the clinics. The dates are November 7 – 9 in Sacramento, CA and November 14th – 16th in Indianapolis, IN. Advertisements are still needed for the inspection program. Members who are interested in advertising can find more information online. The B Book II Ad Hoc Committee presented several suggestions to the board four of the five were approved and include: 1) Changing the color of the registration papers to a distinct watermark, 2) Allowing KFPS registered horses three years and older to be inspected by video for entrance into their respective studbooks, 3) Making all information on all non-licensed stallions public and available to all members in the KFPS database, including DNA results, linear characteristics, kinship calculations, etc., and 4) Placing offspring of approved stallions on hold in B Book I. The fifth recommendation to allow foal book stallions temporary breeding licenses in Canada was tabled for more discussion. The Membership Committee is hosting a new member orientation on Monday, July 17th and information about the orientation can be found online. The Inspection Committee has tentatively approved the 2024 inspection schedule with the KFPS. The B Book II Ad Hoc Committee is considering a new motion for the board that any application for a request to approve a licensed foal book stallion in North America must be investigated by a committee to ensure the application is valid and meets all the conditions outlined in the KFPS policy as it relates to approval of licensed foal book stallions by a specific region or geographical area. Ms. VerMerris asked if the motion to place the offspring of approved stallions on hold in B Book I is retroactive. Ms. Miley will look into this and get back to the FMC on that question. Mr. Vanderkooy asked if all the items recommended by the B Book II committee were recommendations to the FHANA board that would have to go to the KFPS, and Ms. Miley confirmed that this is correct. Mr. Jenkins inquired about comments made by Mr. Bron in the May 2023 FHANA Board meeting regarding Spanish-speaking FHANA members, in which Mr. Bron referred to them as "illegal aliens". He is concerned that no board members rebuked this comment. He asked if a direct violation of the FHANA code of conduct is something the board is OK with. He was contacted by several FHANA members who are very disturbed by

Mr. Bron's comment and would like to know what the FHANA board's reaction is to this comment. Ms. Miley does not recall this comment, and she will investigate the matter.

5. FHANA Breeder Achievement Awards. Members of Ms. VerMerris' chapter have concerns about the requirement to self-nominate for this award. Some members who are in her chapter are in communities in which self-nomination for an award would be considered prideful. They would be very honored to receive this award but are not comfortable nominating themselves. She is curious if the award can be changed so that other members can nominate a member or if FHANA can track the information required for the award so that members are not required to nominate themselves. **Ms. VerMerris motioned to recommend that FHANA allow nominations for the FHANA Breeder Achievement Award, and other pertinent awards, to also come from FHANA members so that the award does not have to be self-nominated only. Mr. McGowan seconded the motion.** Mr. Vanderkooy feels this award would be an interesting and kind way for a chapter to be involved and help take on the task of calculating the points for members who do not use computers. Ms. Osigna-Bouma commented that for the breeder of the year award in the Netherlands, the KFPS does this for their members automatically and that it is very challenging now for members to gather this information from the database themselves. Now that the current owner of the horse is no longer listed publicly in the database, it is difficult for breeders to keep track of the horses they have bred. Ms. VerMerris agreed with Ms. Osigna-Bouma that it should be easy for the KFPS to notify FHANA of some of the top North American breeders, but the real issue she wishes to highlight is the requirement to self-nominate for this award. After further discussion, **Ms. VerMerris amended her original motion to recommend that the FHANA Breeding Committee look into options other than exclusive self-nomination for the FHANA Breeder's Achievement Award, including allowing other members to nominate a breeder or having the KFPS calculate the points. Mr. Kelnhofer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

6. Visitor Policy and Zoom Video Release. Mr. Kelnhofer presented three motions regarding the visitor policy.

In order to alleviate some of the confusion and workload for the administrators, Mr. Kelnhofer motioned that the FMC suspend the guest policy and revise the FMC Bylaws (as attached with the agenda) in favor of a release of the Zoom video recording of FMC Meetings. Mr. McGowan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

To broaden the release of the FMC Zoom recording of the FMC's meetings, **Mr. Kelnhofer motioned that the FMC request that FHANA place the FMC Zoom recording on the FHANA website with the same security controls as those set for the FHANA Board Meeting. If fees are required, FHANA will bill the FMC for those costs, and as long as they are reasonable, Mr. Kelnhofer will personally pay the cost.** Mr. Vanderkooy seconded the motion. Mr. Kelnhofer's understanding from speaking to Mr. Tice is that the cost for this website change would be approximately \$250. Mr. Kelnhofer is willing to pay this cost personally, but if the cost exceeds \$1,000, then the FMC will need to discuss how to proceed. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Kelnhofer motioned that if FHANA declines to release the FMC Zoom meeting on its website, that the Council releases the video recording through its network of Council representatives for release to their constituents. Ms. Osigna-Bouma seconded the motion. Mr. Jenkins asked if there were other options besides putting the recording on the FHANA website in order to keep some autonomy from FHANA. Mr. Kelnhofer appreciates this concern but stated that the FMC minutes are already on the FHANA website,

and his interest in this course of action is primarily to utilize the security the FHANA website provides. Ms. Jeffcoat agrees with Mr. Jenkins' comment with regard to autonomy and also asked for clarification if this change would be going forward or if past meeting videos would be included in the release. Mr. Kelnhofer stated that it is only for future meeting videos. The motion passed unanimously.

7. FHANA Non-Refundable Fees. Mr. McGowan's chapter has asked him to present to the FMC some potential options concerning FHANA's non-refundable fees. 1) If a member has a horse that is ill and unable to attend an inspection, that member can submit a vet letter and opt to roll over their inspection fee to the following year's FHANA membership dues. This would be an alternative option to receiving a partial refund. Currently, the refund requires the assessment of a \$75 administrative fee. This option would waive that \$75 fee and would only apply toward one credit for the following year's membership, not multiple credits for multiple cancelations. 2) If a member is unable to attend an AGM due to weather or flight cancelations, the AGM registration fee can be rolled over as a credit for that year's inspection entry fee. These are suggestions from Mr. McGowan's chapter board as members want to attend events, but sometimes things happen that do not make it possible. His board feels there should be a better way to be member-friendly with regard to cancelations and refunding fees. Mr. Michielli appreciates this suggestion as he and ten other chapter members had to cancel attending the AGM last year due to the weather. While hotels and airlines provided a credit for the cancelation due to weather, FHANA offered no credit or solution. **Mr. McGowan motioned to recommend that the FHANA board look at being friendlier with regard to refunding fees in the event of a cancelation. Mr. Michielli seconded the motion.** Mr. Vanderkooy supports this motion and feels it is best to leave it up to FHANA, whether it be the Finance Committee, another committee, or the board, to determine how best to do this. Keeping track of funds could be complicated and might be too much work for the office. Mr. Laude commented that we do need to keep in mind that there are fees associated with registration and labor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

8. B Book II Registration and Inspection. **Ms. Osigna-Bouma made a motion that the FMC recommends to the FHANA Board of Directors the following: 1. Either change FHANA's B Book II practices as soon as possible to allow for the full recognition of all the rights and privileges for members who own B Book II Friesians, as clearly described in FHANA's present bylaws. 2. Or, enshrine FHANA's present practice towards members who own B Book II Friesians into FHANA's official bylaws by introducing an amendment to the bylaws and to be voted on by the full membership this coming January. Mr. Vanderkooy seconded the motion.** Mr. Vanderkooy feels this recommendation makes sense after the FMC's previous meeting, as the results were decisive regarding the polling of FHANA chapters. Mr. Laude commented that he feels that some of the background information that was sent out with the agenda regarding this motion is incorrect, to which he provided several examples. He feels the leadership of FHANA is making steps towards investigating and allowing the membership to formulate an opinion by assigning a B Book committee to develop this information. He urged the council to evaluate the information that was presented as some of it is incorrect. Ms. Jeffcoat asked if there was any documentation of the KFPS asking FHANA to align itself with the KFPS and other countries with regard to B Book II inspection and registration. Ms. Miley responded that this was the opinion of an individual and not that of the KFPS, and it has been retracted. She feels there is inaccurate information in the background information, and the B Book II Committee is diligently working on this issue and should continue their process. Mr. Jenkins called a point of order with regard to 1) Ms. Miley's participation in the discussion and 2) he believes Mr. Laude sharing his personal opinion while chairing this discussion and while also serving as Chair on the B Book II Committee is a conflict of interest. He requested that the Vice Chairperson take over any further proceedings on this topic. Mr. Laude disagreed that he shared his personal opinion. Ms. VerMerris commented that this is a passionate topic, and while

there is a committee in place, this issue does need to move forward. Mr. Laude asked if anyone felt he has a conflict of interest on this topic. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that despite the history of B Book II and the way members might have felt about it in the past, the membership has evolved, and this issue is not going to go away. He was surprised the Chair took such a vocal role in discussing the content of a motion. Mr. Laude called Mr. Jenkins out of order for interrupting Mr. Kelnhofer while he had the floor. Mr. Laude asked the Administrators if there was a conflict of interest. Ms. DePuydt responded that the amount of discussion Mr. Laude provided on this motion as the Chair is unprecedented. However, she understands why he wished to provide the context that he did. She encouraged the council to keep their emotions in check and for the Chair to continue asking if there is more discussion until none is heard before voting. Mr. Michielli feels the information being shared with the membership about B Book II is very biased, one way or the other, depending on whom you speak to. This has resulted in the general membership being very confused about this issue. While he appreciates the Chair taking the time to clarify aspects of the background information, times have changed in this association, and we need to remember that what is most important is taking care of the horses and the members. As an organization, if we require members to join our association in order to have their horses registered and then not service them, there could be an issue with that. He would like to know what FHANA's legal counsel's position is on this matter. Mr. Laude apologized to the council for his outburst. Ms. Smith commented that if the council votes on this, they are willing to submit false information. Mr. Laude clarified that the background information is separate from the motions and that the motions stand alone. Mr. Jenkins apologized for interrupting Mr. Kelnhofer and commented that when the board voted on this issue previously, they never ratified that decision with a bylaw change. The current board could ratify a previous board's decision with a vote. He requests a roll call vote. Ms. Jeffcoat commented that in 2016 the board changed FHANA's position on B Book II, and it caused so many issues and upset the membership that their decision had to be reversed. Mr. Kelnhofer commented that what made the membership upset in 2016 was that the board made that decision unilaterally without a membership vote, and that is a different scenario than what is happening today. Mr. Vanderkooy reminded the council that this vote is simply a recommendation, that is all. Mr. Laude called for a roll call vote.

Mr. Jenkins – Central California Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Ms. Blair – Ohio Valley Friesian Horse Association: Yes
 Ms. Caesar – Northeast Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Ms. Jeffcoat – South Central Friesian Horse Association: No
 Ms. Smith – Great Lakes Friesian Horse Association: No
 Mr. Michielli – Cascadia Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Ms. Osinga-Bouma – Atlantic Canada Friesian Horse Association: Yes
 Mr. McGowan – Lone Star Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Mr. Vanderkooy – Ontario Friesian Horse Association: Yes
 Mr. VerMerris – Michigan Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Mr. DiLeo – Friesian Horse Club of Southern California: Abstain
 Ms. Groom – Florida Friesian Horse Club: Yes
 Ms. Driver – Friesian Horse Association of Oklahoma: Yes
 Mr. Kelnhofer – Friesian Horse Association of the Mid-East: Yes

The motion passed. 11 in favor, two against, and one abstain. Three representatives were not present for the vote: Ms. Brock – Northern Michigan Friesian Club (absent), Mr. Mourits – Alberta Friesian Horse Association (left the meeting early); and Ms. Veinotte, Pacific Friesian Horse Club (left the meeting early). Mr. Laude – Mountain Time Friesian Chapter, did not vote in accordance with the FMC bylaws.

9. **Next Meeting Date.** The next FMC meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, at 8 PM EDT.

10. **Motion to Adjourn.** Mr. Kelnhofer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM EDT.

Minutes presented by Angie DePuydt

