

**Inspection Committee Notes**  
**February 13, 2024**  
**1:00 PM CST**

**Attendees:** Marq Laude, Chair, Tiffany van der Kooi, Julie Karpus, Annette Carpenter, Rick Butts, Annie Muilwijk, and Jo Clough

**Absent:** None

**Meeting Minutes:** **Rick made a motion to approve the Inspection Meeting minutes and Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Marq indicated there is information on a Tryon request in BoardEffect and three private venue requests.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**OPEN SESSION**

- It was asked how we make a motion relating to the inspection request; motions are to be framed in positive terms. They should be worded to support a request and the vote would pass or fail passed. It was asked how many horses Tryon had in the past, they had approximately 30 in 2023. It was also noted that the fee is cheaper given the requested inspection would occur during move-in day.
- It was noted that the conditions specified in the conditions email were not all agreed upon.
- **A motion was made to approve the Tryon inspection request by Annette. Tiffany seconded her motion. A vote was taken, and it was voted down unanimously.** Annie arrived after the vote was taken and stated she agreed with the outcome of the vote.
- The discussion moved to three private venue requests. These included Kansas, Iron Spring Farm and Lorrick Stables owned by Rick Butts.
  - **A motion was made to approve Iron Springs Farm by Rick. It was seconded by Annie. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.** It was noted that Iron Springs has a very long history of successful Inspections with no participant complaints.
  - Marq and Jason provided background on Rick's private venue, Lorrick Stables. Rick was invited to submit the application to help ensure Circuit 1 would be workable. When scheduling sites for 2024, there were only three sites in Canada. We needed an additional northern tier site in the United States to make the Circuit economically feasible. Also, the judges do not like crossing back and forth over the U.S. and Canadian border. Marq reached out to Rick and then to Danielle Piascik to coordinate the last leg of Circuit 1. Circuit 1 was subsequently structured with British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, New York, and then New England. **Annie made a motion to approve the Lorrick private venue application in New York. Annette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Rick did not vote due to conflict of interest. Rick was thanked for providing another site to make Circuit 1 possible, he was gracious to assume this responsibility.
  - Kansas Inspection – Signature Friesians has been hosting for 15 – 20 years, they have never had a complaint. They are limited in capacity to 30 horses, they can take a few more with

- IBOPs. They have 28-37 horses on any given year. Jason has always heard it was a wonderful Inspection site from attendees. They do not accept anything behind the stall fees, costs are managed. Rick stated that they have a standup reputation. The Kansas private venue application will be sent to the committee members for review and a vote will occur on-line. It was also noted that this site has a long history of successful inspections, that they have ~ 30 or more horses, and sufficient stabling.
- Roundtable Discussion – Marq commented that there has been a lot of feedback from members and FHANA leadership that the southeast is underserved by Inspections. Florida had one in the spring of 2022 and the 2023 inspection was cancelled due to low volume. This is a significant concern we need to address for our membership moving forward. At the Site Host Meeting last week a Tennessee attendee offered to cover the southeast region. Jason examined the geographical area to determine the feasibility of members to travel to Tennessee from the Florida panhandle. He presented a map that indicated where the members resided and determined it would take about seven hours to drive from the panhandle of Florida to the site in Tennessee. The travel time is feasible given the interstate highways and direct routes to the site. Tennessee is reasonable accessible to the southeast. Marq reached out to Lisa Brown Baker, and she indicated that she would be willing to host to cover the southeast region. Her site host application is anticipated to arrive at the FHANA office today. They were informed that the only day that would be feasible is September 25, the date already approved by the KFPS. **A motion to approve the Tennessee application to cover the underserved area in the southeast specifically on September 25, 2024, was made by Rick and seconded by Annie. A vote was taken, and it passed unanimously.** Marq stated he also reached out to Pam Groom, and she did not think they could get the needed numbers for an Inspection in her area of the southeast.
  - Jason stated that this year was a learning experience. He feels that moving forward things will improve e.g., contacting folks after the 10/15 due date to personally remind them to submit. Also, the use of trended entry data (we will continue adding information moving forward), examining average temperature data from the National Weather Service, and mapping out the locations of attendees and horses to determine the most accessible locations to address areas underserved. He predicts there will be an increase in applications in 2025. Hopefully, the concerning social media posts will decrease as well. Rick thanked the committee for all that has been done.
  - Jason demonstrated a FHANA member and inspection participant map for Texas. He color coded members who participated in the 2023 inspections for Lone Star and for South Central so folks could see that Waco, the proposed venue, was in the center. The blue dots on the map show where members reside with their horses. Waco also has easy access to highways; it should work conveniently as an inspection site for all. This covers a 200 hundred mile radius. Both site hosts have been contacted about the plan to have one inspection in Texas, that the numbers do not support it especially when the two inspections are so close together. The two reluctantly agreed, hopefully we can improve relations. Maybe this will be a breakthrough moving forward.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Annie and it was seconded by Rick.