

Jan. 29, 2023 BOD meeting notes

Meeting started at 5:03 pm ET

Participants: Ashlie Racette, Edgar Schutte, Janice Thompson, Barbara Schmidt, Natalie DiBerardinis and Meg Williams

Barb AGM meeting update.

Thank You notes were given to panelists and speakers w/gift bags. AGM committee originally planned for 80 people but we had 100 in total attend. Cost neutral but made money with the silent auction and sponsorships. Natalie said the auction proceeds can be used for other things then having to offset the meeting expenses because of that which is great..

Survey to be sent out to all that attended to get feedback on in-person vs. virtual.

Natalie Young Breeders Update

Natalie briefed everyone on what happened at the AGM meeting regarding transporting kids back to the Embassy in a horse trailer. Discussion regarding liability concerns and poor decision making ensued.

Acknowledgement of risks associated with these activities could have huge implications for the AHS. This is not the first time the Board has discussed the problems with the committee.

The reoccurring problems are from a lack of planning and communication. Need clear division between activities Dorie does on her own with youth at her facility vs the AHS Young Breeders committee.

Natalie asked if we would be in favor of keeping the Young Breeders committee active if the Board decided that they can do no in-person events this year and only on-line events are allowed. This would give the Board and the Committee time to regroup and discuss the program and how it's to function. Rick said it's salvageable if there is a Board member on the committee and that member is very active on oversight.

Board had already tasked the Strategic Planning Committee this past fall with reviewing Young Breeders and what the AHS as an organization wants to accomplish. These recent developments prioritize the need for this evaluation.

In the meantime, Natalie and Barb will have a call with Dorie and Laura to let them know that the board is evaluating what we want the committee to focus on, only online activities/education offered to members and non-members for this year, and Denmark in 2024 is off the table.

Ashlie said that the Education committee absolutely can help with online education opportunities also.

Rick made the motion to have only online activities until they can reevaluate the committee and no to Denmark in 2024. Natalie seconded. All in favor.

Edgars update on 501 c 3 application.

Edgar said that the lawyer called to let him know that the AHS does not meet the 501 c 3 requirements. Our attorney received a courtesy call from the IRS agent saying that as it stands, she could not approve our application. She did say that if we wanted to make it work, we could split off an entity from AHS and

house certain functions under the same application she could consider it under our current application. That would mean creating a new entity that would contain elements such as education, possibly creation of scholarships, etc.

Natalie said that at first this seems very complicated, moving many activities to this new entity. Edgar commented that the way to look at it, if we want 501 c 3 status, we will have to have a separate entity. Edgar is waiting to hear back from Kevin on the options. AHS board needs to decide if we want to move forward. Edgar warned that the board may need to make a decision soon so the application doesn't expire.

Rick made a motion to authorize Edgar and Natalie to continue looking at this even if it takes a little financial investment. Natalie second Rick's motion to spend a little money and move forward to find out more about committing to it yet and what the other structure would look like without submitting another application. All board members are in favor.

Meeting ended at 6:15 pm ET