**BAKAS HORSES FOR HANDICAPPED**

 **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023**

In attendance: Jen West, Amy Chirinos, Teri Yarborough, Eileen Davis, Kim Hajaistron, Johanna Rossellini, Michelle Letter, and Christina Freeman.

**October 5th:** Board meeting at Bakas starting at 6.

**October 6th**: Parks and Rec has a special needs dance for adults at the Keystone Rec Center from 6:30 to 8:30. It’s free with a DJ, drinks, and snacks.

**October 15th:** is the first of 3 Charity Horse Shows at Lake Park from 9 to 5. Michelle is taking over the coordination of the shows. She gave out a list of previous sponsors. We could really use more, so please ask everyone and anyone. We need volunteers for the afternoon shift (1 to 6pm). Concession stand items will be requested on Sign Up Genius, so please donate what you can. Amy picked up the ribbons. Johanna is putting in an order for more shirts and they should be ready by the show. She is going to have special shirts for the buckle series.

**October 20th**: The Brandon Rec Center is having their dance from 6:30 to 8:30.

**October 21st:** is the Bakas Halloween Party here at the stables from 10 to 1. Jen will do the flyer. We will have concessions for sale and need volunteers to run the many games. Each rider is asked to bring a small cake (or other dessert) for the cake walk and dress in their costume for our parade. The horses might also play dress up as well. Prizes, ribbons, and decorations will be amassed. Pumpkin decorating was a popular event, so Teri/Dani will try and get them.

**November 2nd:** Board meeting at Bakas starting at 6.

**November 17th:** Goddard School would like to have their Fall party here, 3:30 to 5:30. We need a few volunteers to assist with set up, pony rides, etc.

**December ?:**  9thor 16th are the tentative dates for the Holiday Party at Bakas from 6 to 9. We will hopefully be able to book Thunder Ranch on a Saturday.

Rider banquet was a blast at Keystone Rec Center and a good time was had by all. We had 120 in attendance. The piano solo by Milosh was amazing, the food was great, and everyone looked stylish in their personalized bandanas. The DJ stopped the music a little early, and we don’t know why, but that was the only “negative”.

Last week at the Summers End competition, we had a $2,500 Go Fund me donation and we are expecting more funds to trickle in. Normally we have a staff member transport a few horses, but the county declined last minute. We need to clarify the process to make sure that we can count on county transportation for this event, Sp. O., etc. For the KC show, Betty from Stirrups and Strides takes a Bakas horse for us. That show is Nov. 5th thru 8th for the riders who qualified at Summers End.

 We want to try and increase our board meeting participation, so ideas were batted around re: meeting time, location, virtual participation. We’ll address this next year. We would also like to find some creative people who might have Halloween games in mind, decorating flair, fundraising/event ideas.

Charlie Belcher from Fox 13 was contacted by Michelle and they are interested in doing a story about Bakas, but Jen said that it needs to go thru the county communications dept. and proper channels. It could take a few weeks, but hopefully soon you could see our wonderful program on TV.

Johanna wants to order more shirts, hats, bags, and other items. She is going to increase the price of everything to twice our cost, which is still a bargain. She will sell shirts during class at Bakas on the 23rd.

Eileen went over the July Treasurers Report. It was a quiet month with a small deficit.

The staff attended the PATH Region 5 conference to learn new therapeutic riding techniques. We paid for the gas and hotel rooms.

Last months’ minutes distributed, read, and approved.