



# NDA Special Board Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2014

## Attendees

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### Board Members Present:

- Katie Miller, President
- Melissa Ward, Secretary
- Tish Gade-Jones, Treasurer
- Tillie Jones, Junior Representative
- Dara Liss
- Kathy Hanford
- Jane Fucinaro
- Laura Stueck

### Board Members Absent:

- Briana Bartlett, Vice President

### NDA Members Present:

- Mike Smith
- Amy Blum

## Reason for special meeting

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President Katie Miller called this special board meeting to discuss the conflicts surrounding the 2014 Cornhusker Classic recognized shows.

## Call to Order

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Katie called the meeting to order at Firespring in Lincoln at 7:08 pm.

## Issue at Hand

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On behalf of the Competitions Committee, Mike Smith and Amy Blum briefed the board on the current state of planning for the Cornhusker Classic level 3 recognized show at Quail Run Equestrian Center in Omaha.

While Mike and Amy have been working with Quail Run since January to plan for this event and knew there would be a cost increase in association with a venue change for the show, they were not given actual cost estimates by Quail Run until now. Quail Run's proposed contract declares the rental fee as "costs plus 10%, or \$20,000, whichever is less." \$20,000 is approximately twice NDA's budget for the show, and NDA would incur a loss of \$10,000-12,000. This loss would deplete NDA's banked funds by at least half.

Mike and Amy stated that Quail Run was supposed to have submitted a more specific cost breakdown but had not yet, and that there is a possibility that some costs could be negotiated down.

After their report, the Competitions Committee left the meeting and the board discussed the following options at length:

- hold the show as planned and incur a loss due to facility rental fees;
- cancel the show and incur a loss due to cancellation fees, loss of revenue, and costs already incurred for judges, airfare, USDF fees, etc;
- find another venue suitable for a level 3 show, which is highly unlikely, especially on short notice;
- downgrade the show from level 3 to level 2, enabling NDA to switch to another local venue, potentially affecting attendance and reputation; or
- cancel the recognized show, incurring a loss as stated above, but still hold the schooling show to utilize our booked judges.

Debate of these options yielded the consensus that a change of venue or level would be inadvisable if not impossible, and the decision comes down to holding the show at Quail Run or canceling altogether.

The board did not feel comfortable holding a vote on the issue until given more substantial and specific rental fee estimates from Quail Run, as well as an itemized summary from the Competitions Committee on costs so far.

Katie will ask Mike Smith to provide a "sunk costs" estimate, as well as make a case to negotiate costs down and procure more specific numbers from Quail Run by end of business (5:00 pm) Wednesday, 5/7. At that time, the board will convene again to compare the cost of holding the show at Quail Run with the cost of canceling it, and will vote on the issue.

Once a decision is made by the board, a comprehensive communication will be made to NDA membership to explain the situation and solicit feedback.

## **Next Meeting Scheduled**

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The next board meeting on this issue will be May 7, 2014, 7:00 pm at Firespring.

## **Adjournment**

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Dara moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm, Jane seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Melissa Ward  
NDA Secretary, 2014