**BCHKS May 1, 2022 Board Meeting (Zoom)**

Attendance: Stephanie Huss, Sheila Watkins, Jen Stalder, Cheryl Thomas, Diana Skinner, Pattie Stalder, Marsha Hayes, Mary Licata

Meeting was brought to order at 7:07pm by BCHKS Chair Stephanie Huss. Stephanie asked Cheryl to take minutes.

Stephanie reviewed the minutes from the April 3 meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Sheila reported that BCHKS has received Articles of Incorporation from the State of Kansas.

Treasurer’s Report – Sheila reported a current balance of $7,848.53. Main income is from 2022 dues; BCHKS has received over 50 new members since the first of the year, with many joining at the Trails Advocacy level. There are still some unpaid members from 2021. Dues reminder emails have been sent; names will be removed from the active member list. Sheila also reported an expense of $615 for the trail markers purchase made by Diana.

Sheila reviewed the ongoing discussion regarding pursuit of 501c3 status for BCHKS. Diana reported that several BCHA state chapters are 501c4, rather than 501c3. BCHA 501c3 status can be used by state chapters; any donations made at state chapter level can be processed through the national 501c3 for a 3% processing fee. Those donations could then be tax deductible for the donor. The 501c4 status is significantly less expensive to apply for than the 501c3; Sheila will check into other requirements for application and any tax implications. Stephanie will also check with a tax accountant about the tax requirements for a 501c4. Benefits would be the ability to open a checking account as a non-profit. The board plans to make a final decision regarding this issue at the June meeting.

Stephanie provided an update on the April 16 meeting at Big Hill Lake and tentative plans to form a BCHKS chapter there. Due to confusion regarding the proper procedure for a chapter organizational meeting, progress was not made. BCHKS still hopes to pursue the organization of a Big Hill chapter, and several board members will attend a meeting on May 14 at Big Hill Lake. National Chair Sherry Copeland will also be in attendance at this meeting. Diana has prepared a proposed meeting agenda and the steps to follow in forming a chapter. Temporary officers should be appointed to run the meeting and keep a record of minutes; by-laws should be discussed; get a list of names of those who would consider a chapter office; choose a date for the meeting to form a chapter. May 14 was the date selected by those present at the April 16 meeting. Since then, several have said they are not able to attend, but they may submit their names for consideration for an office. Stephanie will send the information to Bobbie Barton, who will send an email to those interested. Marsha suggested that SE Kansas BCHKS members can still proceed as state chapter members; Diana feels there is still interest in forming a regional chapter. Stephanie encouraged Marsha to continue to pursue a project on the history of that area and those trails.

Diana reported on a successful benefit weekend at Rockhaven Park, Clinton Lake. The prospect of extreme bad weather Friday night may have deterred some from attending, but the ride still raised close to $1,000 for Sunflower BCHKS through participation fees and live auction proceeds. On Saturday, 15 riders did the 15-mile round trip ride to the dam and back; about 25 attended the Saturday evening dinner and auction. About 10 riders did the west loop on Sunday morning and returned to a hot lunch at the shelter house. Diana reported that she is getting some additional donations from people who were not able to participate. Diana gave Pattie the trail markers that had been ordered for the Randolph trails; Diana also has the markers ordered by Saddle Ridge.

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 5, 7 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Cheryl Thomas  
Acting BCHKS Secretary