I. Welcome and Roll Call
Ms. McWilliams called the meeting to order and Ms. Osterman performed roll; with seven (7) members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from February 10, 2020
Ms. Stewart-Wells made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 10, 2020; Mr. Brown seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Discussion of 2021 Task Force Proposal and Alternative Staff Proposal
Ms. McWilliams led the discussion with explaining that during the previous USHJA Board of Directors meeting there were two proposals presented for the Children’s and Adult Amateur program. There was a staff written proposal for a Team Challenge in addition to the Task Force’s Championship proposal. Ms. McWilliams feels that the Team Challenge is desirable because of how inclusive it is for competitors. Mr. Brown expressed his concern regarding such an open program and getting over qualified riders to participate and take away from the targeted group. The Task Force discussed including restrictions on who can enter the Team Challenge event, such as riders may not have competed over a certain height. Currently the only boundaries would be regular competition cross entry restrictions, and the original premise of the Child/Adult Hunter Championships was to cater directly to the group of riders who are at a certain level.

There was further discussion about including qualifying, cross entry restrictions, or rider eligibility. Ms. Osterman noted that eligibility might be the best route, but it would still be pertinent that riders pre-enter in order for USHJA staff to check eligibility prior to the Rider’s Meeting and creating the teams. She further explained the reason for the staff generated proposal was due to the Board requesting a program that is less staff intensive, less expensive, and easier for competition managers to run. Writing in qualifying and the need to check for points would add more staff hours and go against the original intent; however, checking rider eligibility after pre-entries close would not take as much time.
Ms. Demas Mulkey expressed her concerns that the Team Challenge would lose the team comradery that is a large part of the Championship format. Using the Team Challenge, riders would be on teams, but team members would be showing at different times and might not bring the riders together.

It was also noted that the Task Force disliked the Team Captain being the only rider to compete in the last team class. They discussed that only one rider competing for the team aspect would not feel special and would not give riders a reason to be a part of a team. The Task Force discussed changing the team class to include the top four or five teams and invite every rider on the team to compete. Allowing all riders on these top teams to compete would only add 16-20 trips and not be a large burden for show management.

Ms. McWilliams was concerned with the regional competition model based on the history of the Child/Adult Hunter Championships not being successful due to demographics. She questioned if the nature of the Team Challenge would draw riders who are closer to the location and not reach the rest of the country’s riders.

Ms. Demas Mulkey brought up that judge requirements were not addressed in the Team Challenge, which led to discuss other requirements from the competition such as the need for a scoreboard. Ms. Osterman explained the process for programs that are not be approved yet and the host application timeline. There will be an additional late host application for any other programs that were approved later, and the Task Force will need to come up with the host criteria and requirements for that process.

Mr. Brown noted that it is important that the program is a special event and not just busy work for competitions to add to their schedules. The main purpose of the program is to target a large group of the membership that do not have an event to look forward to, and it could be successful if the two proposals were incorporated. Ms. McWilliams also noted that the name would still need to be changed because the Team Challenge includes three heights: 2’, 2’6”, and 3’.

Ms. Osterman will send out an editable version of each proposal and the Task Force will write in their comments of what they feel should be changed, removed, or included. Ms. Osterman will then compile everyone’s suggestions and present it back to the Task Force prior to their next meeting. They will present their final version to the Board of Directors in May.

IV. **Old business**
No old business was discussed.

V. **New business**
No new business was discussed.

VI. **Adjournment**
With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Osterman*
USHJA Assistant Managing Director of Sport Programs