

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, August 24, 2020 – 1:00PM
THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, 415 W. 8TH ST., HINSDALE, IL.

Directors Present: Searle, Chupp, Hansen, H. Williams, Beals, Engel, Leonard, Grummel, Fairley, Rath, Coleman, Husted, Teefey, Franco.

Directors Absent: Zawistowski (joined by phone)

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson.

Installation of new board member(s): Welcome Director Kyle Husted

Approval of August, 2020 Agenda: Motion by Director H. Williams, seconded by Director Hansen. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the July 2020 BOD Minutes: Motion by Director Beals, seconded by Director Engel. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of minutes from August (election) meeting: Motion by Director Engel, seconded by Director Fairley. All in favor. Motion passed.

Election of Officers: Executive Director Somone read the report from Legacy Professionals Accounting Firm regarding the 2020 election. Before the election of officers took place, a motion was made by Director Grummel and seconded by Director Teefey to amend the by-laws, Section 2, to read “*the officers of the Association may be elected or appointed annually by the board of directors at its **September meeting** following the election meeting of members of the Association.....*” instead of the current version of “*the officers of the Association may be elected or appointed annually by the board of directors at its **first regular meeting** following the election meeting of members of the Association.....*” After the motion was made a spirited discussion followed. Two-thirds (2/3) of the entire board of directors or ten (10) were needed to successfully amend the by-laws. A voiced vote was then made. There were seven (7) voting yes, seven (7) voting no, motion failed.

Nominations for officers following the procedures in section three (3) of the by-laws were next.

President - A nomination of Director Fairley for President was made by Director H. Williams and seconded by Director Engel. Director Fairley accepted the nomination. A nomination for Director Teefey for President was made by Director Grummel and seconded by Director Coleman. Teefey declined the nomination. A nomination for President was then made for Director Grummel by Director Teefey and seconded by Director Coleman. Grummel accepted. No more nominations were made. Director Grummel and Director Fairley both spoke for a brief time on why they believed they were the best candidate. Shortly thereafter both candidates were asked to leave the room. A lengthy, spirited discussion ensued. Both candidates re-entered the room and an anonymous ballot for voting was

passed out. The results were counted in front of everyone by Somone, Brubaker and Watson. Director Fairley received eight (8) votes, Director Grummel received six (6) votes. Director Fairley was voted as President.

Vice-President - A nomination of Director Grummel for Vice-President was made by Director Teefey and seconded by Director Fairley No more nominations were made. Grummel was named Vice-President by acclamation.

2nd Vice-President - A nomination of Director Engel for Second (2nd) Vice-President was made by Director Williams and seconded by Director Leonard No more nominations were made. Engel was named 2nd Vice-President by acclamation.

Secretary - A nomination of Director Hansen for Secretary was made by Director Beals and seconded by Director Williams. No more nominations were made. Hansen was named Secretary by acclamation.

Assistant Secretary - A nomination of Director Coleman for Assistant Secretary was made by Director Beals and seconded by Director Rath. No more nominations were made. Coleman was named Assistant Secretary by acclamation.

Treasurer - A nomination of Director Beals for Treasurer was made by Director Williams and seconded by Director Hansen. No more nominations were made. Beals was named Treasurer by acclamation.

Assistant Treasurer - A nomination of Director Leonard for Assistant Treasurer was made by Director Engel and seconded by Director Searle. No more nominations were made. Leonard was named Assistant Treasurer by acclamation.

Executive Directors Report:

Election has concluded. As in years past, approximately 50% of the ballots were returned. Hawthorne has been ok'd for their pending gaming license and will begin construction soon. Would like to have their sports betting operation ready for football season in early September. Applications for the 2021 racing season were made with the Illinois Racing Board. Hawthorne has requested 63 live dates from May 7th through September 26 and "Nick It Up" has applied for eight (8) days of racing from December 10th through December 31. "Nick It Up" is a group headed by the Carey family. Details should become clearer as the actual September 16 Dates Hearing gets closer. An error was made concerning the draw of the "Topline" races at Hawthorne but it was discovered early enough and a redraw took place. The Strangles situation was front and center for 2-3 days and after consulting with the experts and non-experts, a plan of action was set in place. Two days of racing in DuQuoin took place. County Fair plaques will be presented to the leading driver, trainer, owner and breeder. Looking into the future, assisting horsemen with Illinois workers comp. policies could be a nice benefit. Early inquiry's on how best to accomplish this have begun. 2019 audit is underway. As a reminder, copies of all monthly bills and payments are available for every director at every meeting. We have three different accounts... a general account, a political action committee (PAC) account and a benefit trust account which hasn't been used since we terminated our health insurance plan. So far, we are under budget for 2020, primarily due to decreased spending (monthly board meetings, hotel and travel) since the Covid-19 pandemic.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Hawthorne approved for gaming license. Sports betting partner PointsBet hopes to begin operations soon. Arlington Park will not open a sportbook has not committed to racing in 2021. Veto session still scheduled for Nov. 17-19 and December 1-3. Fixing our breeding language for that session is currently our main focus. Largely because of Covid, on-line casino gaming is a hot topic again. It has been successful in other states. It's unlikely that Veto session will be a time for it but we will stay diligent and watch that issue closely.

Grassroots and Membership – memberships are currently at 428. Last year September 1, we had 440.

County Fairs – It appears as though there will be no USTA banquet this year. Will work with Dept. of Ag. to check into giving away awards this year.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Hawthorne purchased 14 sets of new saddle pads. Horsemen need to police themselves and make sure those saddle pads are taken care of. Track condition still has issues, specifically the inside “escape lane.” Pylons need to be removed before working on track so they can get down there.

Legal – Nothing to report.

Purse Account – currently \$1.5 overpaid.

Payment of Bills – Bills were paid on Saturday. Director Fairley motioned to pay the bills, Director Williams seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Finance – Regarding paying out the 6-10 place finishers for the State Fair races, they are not being calculated correctly by Hawthorne. Will address it.

Public Relations/Social Media – Nothing to report.

Breeders – 197 (147 Illinois-Breds) in this year's sale compared to 135 in last years.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Director Beals, seconded by Director Husted. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM.