

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 – 12:30PM
THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, 415 W. 8TH ST., HINSDALE, IL.

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

Directors Absent: Teefey, Rath.

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson.

Approval of September, 2020 Agenda: Motion by Director Engel, seconded by Director Beals. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the August 2020 BOD Minutes: Motion by Director Grummel, seconded by Director H. Williams. All in favor. Motion passed.

Executive Directors Report: IRB announced 2021 racing dates. Our schedule is 3 days a week from May 7th until September 26th for a total of 63 days. “Nick It Up” has deferred their request for December 2021 dates until later in the year. Plaques for leading driver, trainer, owner and breeder at the county Fairs this year will be given out during the Springfield Fall Review races on Saturday, September 26. Committee assignments have been organized and passed out. If there are any changes or tweaks, let us know. Auditor has begun his audit for our 2019 tax returns. PointsBet contributed \$60,000 for our NOC races. Appreciation was conveyed to John Walsh. New medication thresholds take effect on Oct. 1 of this year. We will get the word out. Using the USTA automated system to draw horses was discussed. The different insurance policies that the IHHA hold were explained. The HHI policy covering death while working for the IHHA was discussed. After the discussion, a motion was made by Beals and seconded by Williams to only pay for the policy for coverage for Executive Director Somone. Opposing Federal Legislation for the HISA was discussed. The USTA opposes it as many other horse racing groups do. A motion to support the USTA in opposition to this bill was made by Beals and seconded by Chupp, motion passes.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – At the August meeting, there was discussion related to communication and legislative engagement of directors. A document was created to make it easier for directors to get involved. It is a step by step explanation of how to become more active in the process. Agendas for the Fall Veto session and the Spring legislative session were discussed and will be fine-tuned as the year progresses.

Grassroots and Membership – A membership call for 2021 will be set up in the next month or so. Expanding full IHHA memberships to include everyone that work within the industry is expected to be discussed.

County Fairs – The last County Fair races are scheduled for Oct. 1st at the Springfield Fairgrounds. The Dept. of Ag. is working on getting us our money in a timely fashion. Purse earnings on the USTA slightly differ then what in reality has been paid out.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – a consistent racetrack surface is still a major problem. Many different reasons why were discussed. How to address this type of issue for the next contract negotiation will be discussed further by committee.

Legal – Nothing to discuss.

Purse Account – Once we get the final numbers we anticipate that we will finish the racing year at \$2.5 million in the hole. By the year end (through simulcasting revenue) we should be down to about \$1.2 million in the hole. Hawthorne could have contractually cut purses this year but choose not to.

Payment of Bills – motion to pay bills by Beals, seconded by Williams, motion passes.

Finance – Nothing to discuss.

Public Relations/Social Media – although the meet is over, we will continue sharing anything relevant on Facebook and Twitter as much as possible throughout the year.

Breeders – 922 mares were confirmed as inseminated in 2020 which statistically should lead to about 461 live foals in 2021, which would be an increase of 30% from the previous year. There were 144 registered foals in 2018, 268 in 2019, 360 in 2020 and an estimate of 461 registered in 2021.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Director Beals, seconded by Director Hansen. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.