

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 – 1:00 PM
OAKBROOK OTB

Directors Present: Fairley, Engel, Beals, Leonard, Hansen, Williams, Zawistowski, Husted, Rath, Franco.

Directors Absent: Grummel, Teefey, Coleman, Chupp, Searle.

Others: Somone, John Walsh, on behalf of Hawthorne for the first 35 minutes.

Approval of March 2021 Agenda: Motion by Engel, seconded by Rath. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of February 2021 BOD Minutes: Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Hansen. All in favor. Motion passed.

John Walsh, representing Hawthorne Racecourse presented: John gave everyone an update on what he sees for the next 6-24 months regarding Illinois harness racing. Hawthorne's racino will not be open in 2021 but should hopefully be open in early 2022. A schedule for 2022 is currently unclear because of Arlington Park's announcement that their facility is up for sale. Hawthorne, the IHHA and the ITHA will work together to find the most amenable solution for a fair racing schedule in 2022.

Executive Directors Report: IRB licenses will be available at Hawthorne beginning on April 1. The Covid-19 vaccine was discussed. Horse of Year and divisional winners were announced and trophies were in production. A small "Facebook" ceremony will be held when all of the trophies and plaques arrive. It was agreed that our April meeting will be held in the Springfield area. Racing for part of the year at the Springfield State Fairgrounds in 2022 was discussed. While it's uncomfortable sometimes to promote our accomplishments, it is necessary for horsemen to understand why the IHHA exists. A hand-out discussing those accomplishments was compiled and handed out.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Steve's report said that all of the IHHA's bill that were recommended by the legislative committee and agreed to by the board have been filed. All have been assigned to committee. Other gaming bills have also been filed with the online gaming bill as the most concerning to us. We will be meeting with and working closely with the other horsemen's groups to insure our place in this legislation. A "contact template" for everyone on how best to get to know your legislator was discussed.

Grassroots and Membership – Current membership stands at 284.

County Fairs – The Spring Preview will be held on April 24 at the Springfield State Fairgrounds. It was reported that the word from the Dept. of Ag. was that they were optimistic for the return of this summer's County Fairs, although a little unsure of the earliest ones.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Nothing new to report.

Legal – Nothing new to report.

Purse Account – Nothing new to report.

Payment of Bills – Beals motioned to pay bills, Zawistowski second, Motion passes.

Finance – Nothing new to report.

Public Relations/Social Media – Nothing new to report.

Breeders – Doc Walker will have his yearling sale again this year. It is scheduled for Saturday, September 4, with the Classic sale scheduled for the following Monday, September 6, Labor Day.

A discussion on the merits of the IHHA hosting a golf event later in the summer took place. Kyle Husted will gather more information and present it to the board for a final agreement.

Motion to adjourn by Beals, seconded by Rath. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.