

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, May 17, 2021 – 1:00 PM
Oakbrook Terrace OTB, Oakbrook, IL.

Directors Present: Fairley, Hansen, Williams, Husted, Searle, Beals, Franco, Rath, Engel

Directors Absent: Coleman, Leonard, Zawistowski, Grummel, Teefey, Chupp

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Gary Mack.

Approval of May 2021 Agenda: Motion by Rath, seconded by Husted, all in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of April 2021 BOD Minutes: Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Rath, all in favor. Motion passed.

Executive Directors Report: Air conditioning in the track kitchen and the meeting with Dan Coon on the track surface was discussed with John Walsh. Discussion ensued regarding this meeting with Casey Leonard and Kyle Husted participating in the discussion with Dan Coon. We will continue to follow up on the progress. Something called an Illinois “think tank” was noted on the USTA website, discussion ensued. We budgeted \$500 for year-end trophies and plaques and \$466 was spent. We agreed to pay for TrackMaster programs for horsemen and our fans. The early numbers regarding downloads are encouraging. Frustration has been growing by everyone involved with the lack of progress on the casino at Hawthorne. Legislative matters regarding this topic were discussed. Rebates to big bettors and how we are impacted was discussed. A motion was made by Steve Searle to hold a Hall of Fame ceremony this year, seconded by Kyle Husted. Discussion ensued. The motion was tabled until the June meeting when we could discuss this after having a better idea of the financial obligations and the practicality of it at this point in time.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – just two weeks remain in this session. No gambling bills have passed. We participated in a House Executive Committee Gambling Hearing where many different topics were discussed. No gambling hearings in the Senate so far. Lobbyists have continued to participate in many different meetings and phone calls.

Grassroots and Membership – Current membership stands at 342.

County Fairs – Nothing new to report.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – 11 horse fields were discussed. Hot water in the paddock is intermittent. The phone system is not working. No way to communicate with judges, detention barn etc. New saddle pads are being thrown all over the ground because there is no place to hang them. With two-year-olds beginning to qualify a change to having qualifiers on Thursday at noon was agreed upon. A general horsemen’s meeting for Friday, May 21 was planned. A representative from Hawthorne will be invited.

Legal – It was agreed upon that John Zawistowski should stay on as Director through his term which ends in August. .

Purse Account – Nothing new to report.

Payment of Bills – Beals motioned to pay bills, H. Williams second, motion passes.

Finance – Nothing new to report.

Public Relations/Social Media – a donation to the Standardbred Pleasure Horse of New Jersey was discussed. Racer Placers was discussed. A motion by Husted to donate \$200 to the Standardbred Horse of New Jersey an \$200 to Racer Placers was made, seconded by Hansen, motion passes.

Breeders – Nothing new.

Motion to adjourn by Beals, seconded by Rath, meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.