

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, June 21, 2021 – 1:00 PM**  
**IHHA Lower Level Meeting Room**

**Directors Present:** Fairley, Hansen, H. Williams, Husted, Searle, Beals, Brink, (replace Coleman) Rath, Engel, Leonard, Grummel, Teefey, Chupp.

**Directors Absent:** Franco, Zawistowski

**Others:** Somone, Brubaker, Watson, Gary Mack, Bill Wright, Alex Wright.

**Approval of Angie Coleman's resignation and replaced by David Brink.**

**Approval of June 2021 Agenda:** Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Grummel, all in favor. Motion passed.

**Approval of May 2021 BOD Minutes:** Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Engel, all in favor. Motion passed.

**Special Presentation by Bill Wright:** Bill spoke for about one hour on his involvement in Illinois harness racing throughout the years and his experiences in working for a better, more vibrant industry. He spoke passionately of the successes and failures that he has witnessed and the role he believes the IHHA must play to get us to the next level. A well thought out, concise power point presentation supported his thoughts.

**Executive Directors Report:** IRB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, where we expect them to allow the changing of a race date due to a conflict with DuQuoin. Election information has been posted and the 2021 election will be held on August 21 this year. On June 19, Hawthorne and the IHHA hosted the very first Juneteenth race which featured ten black drivers in the race. This race was spearheaded by Donte Williams, son of Hosea. Although successful, it is believed that there will be plenty of room to build off that event as we move forward. Auditors were at the IHHA office last week, finishing up the 2020 audit of IHHA finances. Fairmount Park had been closing early on Sunday evenings, before our live product had been completed. That issue has been resolved. Recently a claimed horse died on the racetrack and brought to light some IRB rules that need to be explored. We have been told that Hawthorne will be returning to the construction of their racino after the next 1-2 gaming board hearings.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative** – No gambling bills passed both the House and Senate this session. There is much discussion that this will be addressed in the Fall Veto session in November. There is a possibility of additional purse dollars coming our way the “budget implementation Bill.” The language refers to the surplus as of August 31 of each year, so the total amount will not be known until that time.

**Grassroots and Membership** – Current membership stands at 397.

**County Fairs** – It's been reported that the Illinois Dept. of Ag. may have an additional \$100k to spend on State Fair races this year.

**Race Track Condition and Backstretch** –Overall the track is still in poor shape. Water truck breaks down frequently and the track conditioner has still not arrived. Casey will continue to work with the Hawthorne track team to remedy this situation. Air conditioning or the lack of, in the track kitchen is still a big problem. The current paddock/ship-in protocols were discussed. The IRB is expected to soon return to the traditional way. A motion supporting the move to go the traditional paddock was made by C. Leonard and seconded by K. Husted. All in favor, motion passed. The nightly implementation of breathalyzer tests were discussed.

**Legal** – nothing.

**Purse Account** – is earning and paying out about as expected.

**Payment of Bills** – Beals motioned to pay bills, G. Hansen second, motion passes.

**Finance** – Nothing new to report.

**Public Relations/Social Media** – David Brink has agreed to act as our new social media person. More stories from Mike Paradise will be sent to the USTA. It was agreed to extend the free Track Master programs throughout July.

**Breeders** – numbers are encouraging but like much of the industry, breeders are nervous with the lack of movement on the new racino(s).

Motion to adjourn by C. Leonard, seconded by Beals, meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.