

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, August 23, 2021 – 1:00 PM**  
**IHHA Office, Lower Level Meeting Room**

**Directors Present:** Fairley, Hansen, H. Williams, Husted, Searle, Beals, Brink, Rath, Engel, Leonard, Franco, Chupp, Davis, Teefey.

**Directors Absent:** Grummel

**Others:** Somone, Watson, Gary Mack

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

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

**Approval of August election minutes:** Motion by Fairley, seconded Engel, all in favor. Motion passed.

**Election of officers:** Al Beals nominated Clark Fairley for President. Clark accepted the nomination. Casey Leonard nominated Marty Engel. Marty accepted the nomination. Merv Chupp nominated Ed Teefey. Ed Teefey declined the nomination. Both candidates discussed why they felt they were best suited to lead the association. Both candidates left the room while the remaining directors discussed their strengths and weaknesses. This discussion last for almost 90 minutes. There were 13 directors voting. (Gary Rath left at 2pm.) There was eight votes for Marty Engel, five votes for Clark Fairley. Marty Engel was voted new IHHA President. Juan Franco nominated Casey Leonard as First Vice-President. No one else was nominated. Casey Leonard was elected First Vice-President by acclamation. Hosea Williams nominated Clark Fairley as Second Vice-President. No one else was nominated. Clark Fairley was elected Second Vice-President by acclamation. Clark Fairley nominated Gerry Hansen as Secretary. No one else was nominated. Gerry Hansen was elected Secretary by acclamation. Gerry Hansen nominated Al Beals as treasurer. No one else was nominated. Al Beals was elected as Treasurer by acclamation. Al Beals nominated David Brink as Assistant Treasurer. No one else was nominated. David Brink was elected Assistant treasurer by acclamation.

**Executive Directors Report:** The BBQ in the paddock was a huge success. Thanks to Steve Brubaker, Brenda Watson and Marty Engel for all of their help. Russell Williams from the USTA has posted three very good videos on the HISA issue. Everyone is encouraged to watch the videos. The details of this new Federal law are still being worked out and there appears to be many issues that still need to be worked out. Lawmakers have turned up the heat on the Governor's office and the Gaming Board to work quicker to expedite all of the gaming licenses that are still pending within the state. The Tinley Park old mental health facility is still on the radar but acquiring the property from the state is still a challenge. Many discussions with Hawthorne, the ITHA and the Dept. of Ag have taken place in the last month concerning the awarding of dates in 2022. Many ideas have been offered but nothing concrete has been agreed upon.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative** – the General Assembly will return on August 31 for a brief session. Gaming is not expected to be discussed. Our breeder language will be part of the discussion during the October Veto session. Internet gambling is very unlikely to happen this year. Illinois State VGT's were in operation at the Springfield State Fair and will be at DuQuoin as well. Horsemen are expected to benefit from this revenue but the revenue split is not clearly defined. We should have the numbers by mid to late September.

**Grassroots and Membership** – Current membership stands at 418. We finished 2020 with 432 members.

**County Fairs** – The impressive attendance at the County Fairs was discussed. Roshun Trigg was the winningest trainer and owner at the Fairs this year with Flacco Family Farms winning the most races as Breeder and Archie Buford was the leading driver. They will all be presented with plaques at the DuQuoin State Fair next week. Discussion concerning where our \$2,500 check for testing at the County Fairs went, specifically how it was spent ensued. We will follow up for answers.

**Race Track Condition and Backstretch** – For the most part the racetrack has been in good shape. Blood gas testing was discussed.

**Legal** – Nothing to report.

**Purse Account** – We may finish the year slightly better than anticipated.

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

**Finance** – Nothing to report.

**Public Relations/Social Media** – Pictures on our social media pages are a big draw. We will continue to work on getting more of that available to our followers. The advantages and disadvantages of zoom meeting in the future was discussed. Amending the by-laws in the future was discussed. A copy of the by-laws will be sent to everyone.

**Breeders** – the uncertainty of 2022 dates have made future owners hesitant to commit to buying yearlings this year at the two sales. A strong specific statement on the 2022 dates would go a long way to relaxing that hesitancy.

Motion to adjourn by Beals, seconded by Williams, meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.