

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022 – 1:00 PM
OAKBROOK OTB**

Directors Present: Engel, Husted, Hansen, Chupp, Searle, Beals, Davis.

Directors Absent: Franco, Leonard, Rath, Williams, Teefey, Fairley, Grummel, Brink

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson, Andrew Mack.

Approval of February 2022 Agenda: No quorum

Approval of January 2022 BOD Minutes: No quorum

Hawthorne Update: Marty updated everyone on his conversation with Tim Carey. He reported that Tim said everything was moving as planned and that expectations were that the April gaming board meeting would be productive and give them a clearer vision on the future. They are hoping to begin construction in May. He also reported that there was nothing new on the second racino project since last month.

Executive Directors Report: The \$30,000 3 year old ICF races were able to be raced. As a reminder we will have our April meeting in Springfield. I attended the HHI meetings in Florida. I was approached by someone from Bally's that recently purchased Dover Downs in Delaware. A lengthy conversation ensued. The HHI meetings that we attend every year have proved beneficial in many ways over the years. Making sure that we hire lobbyists specifically for harness racing (unlike Florida) and designing the gaming bill so that horsemen don't receive tax dollars from the State are just a few lessons learned.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – The only bill that we have a keen interest on is the OTB bill that Hawthorne is leading with and the t-bred group and ourselves are actively supporting. It amends the current law to allow Hawthorne to have more than 16 OTB locations, basically picking up the ones that Arlington previously operated. The VGT and Casino groups have had nothing moved. This session is scheduled to end Friday, April 8th. Chairman Dan Beiser, from the Illinois Racing Board, initially failed to get appointed back on the IRB but eventually the vote was reconsidered and he unanimously was re-appointed.

Grassroots and Membership – memberships have been coming in and we have approximately 315 so far.

County Fairs – Springfield preview race is scheduled for May 21. An additional day of racing has been added to the Springfield State Fair. We will now race Thursday, Friday and Saturday (August 11, 12, 13) and return on Wednesday, Thursday (August 17,18). Our race days that will be Hawthorne races at the Springfield State Fairgrounds are tentatively scheduled for June 16-17 and June 23-24 although that is not official yet.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Friday’s night unsafe track condition resulted in the postponing of the card to Sunday. As we had voiced concern all year long on the ongoing issue of an acceptable track surface it finally became a reality when the starter car couldn’t get across it safely, resulting in the cancellation of the races. A stipend to compensate horsemen was discussed. Over 70% of the horses shipped in costing approximately \$150 -\$300 in fuel. Lasix was administered to most and trainers still needed to pay a paddock fee. Those are real dollars associated to showing up to race. This was not an act of God, but because of negligence on the part of Hawthorne.

Legal – Nothing to report.

Purse Account – Nothing significant to report.

Payment of Bills – No quorum

Finance – nothing to report.

Public Relations/Social Media –

Breeders –

Meeting adjourned at 2:30