

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022 – 1:00 PM
AT THE OAKBROOK TERRACE OTB**

Directors Present: Engel, Beals, Hansen, Brink, Rath, Husted, Searle, Williams, Leonard, Teefey.

Directors Absent: Chupp, Fairley, Davis, Grummel, Franco.

Others: Somone, Watson, Brubaker, G. Mack.

Approval of August 2022 Agenda: Williams motioned, Teefey second. Motion approved.

Approval of July BOD Minutes: Teefey motioned, Williams second. Motion approved.

Election Results: Legacy accounting has confirmed that 10% of the voting members have concurred with the five nominated directors. A motion to confirm the results of the election made by Teefey, second by Williams, motion passes.

Hawthorne Update: A letter from Hawthorne was received regarding their commitment to harness racing and to ensure confidence in horsemen who would be buying at the upcoming yearling sales. We've been attempting to nail down our schedule for 2023. Efforts to meet with Dept. of Ag., and Hawthorne have been made. Hawthorne will meet with the IRB soon to discuss this as well. We hope to race from early June to end of August at the Springfield State Fairgrounds. The plan is to make it a pari-mutual meet with full IRB involvement. Then start at Hawthorne in September and go until end of December. We would also then start back immediately in January 2024 at Hawthorne and race thru February. Specific dates and times still to be discussed.

Executive Directors Report: State Fair BBQ was a success again. Extra special thanks to Steve and Karen Brubaker and Brenda Watson for all of their help. PointsBet money is expected to be added to the NOC races once again. We sent money to the family of Curtis Rice. Election protocol was followed and results have now been finalized. I continue to attend fundraiser when possible. County Fair plaques for the leading, driver, trainer, breeder and owner are ready to be presented at the DuQuoin State Fair. ITHA asked us about agreeing to let them stay on at Hawthorne next year until later in September, in exchange for us staying longer into March of 2024. Marty, Casey and I all told them we didn't really care for the idea but that we would bring it to the board. Discussion ensued. All agreed that it wasn't a good idea.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Discussions continue with Reps and Senators concerning our issues. Some are speculating that there may not be a traditional Veto session this year. No word on any gaming activity. The old Tinley Park Mental Health Facility is still caught up in bureaucracy. Senator Hastings, who represents that area, has some personal issues pending and Senator Harmon has asked him to step down from his leadership post. We will see if or how that potentially impacts the Tinley Park situation. Churchill Downs rumors, some substantiated, some not, continue to swirl regarding them getting back into horse racing in the state. The Governor's policy staff toured Doc Walker's farm and then came thru the paddock. Ed Teefey and Casey Leonard both had fruitful conversations with them. IRB Chairman Dan Beiser also came

through the BBQ line and we spoke briefly with him, thanking him for his support. The recently passed Breeder's bill may need some clean-up or a tweak.

Grassroots and Membership – Current membership stands at 385.

County Fairs – We believe that testing was done at two County Fairs so far. One positive that we know of.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – An issue with stolen and damaged golf carts was discussed. Power has been out at Hawthorne recently with no hot water. Track condition has been poor again the last few weeks.

Legal – We will discuss the potential By-Law change at our September meeting.

Purse Account – Currently we are \$1.5 million in the hole, will be worse by year end.

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

Finance – nothing to report.

Public relations/social media – It was good to see that Capital Fax covered the races. Website continues to make slow but steady progress. Amy Husted story by Neil Milbert got plenty of attention as human interest stories usually do.

Breeders – Walker sales numbers were down.

Motion to adjourn by Beals, second by Teefey, meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.