

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022 – 1:00 PM  
AT THE OAKBROOK OTB**

**Directors Present:** Engel, Beals, Searle, Williams, Leonard, Rath, Davis.

**Directors Absent:** Fairley, Grummel, Teefey, Brink, Hansen, Franco, Chupp, Husted.

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

**Approval of October 2022 Agenda:** Quorum not met.

**Approval of September BOD Minutes:** Quorum not met. Discussion ensued concerning a plan of action regarding November, December board meetings. It was decided that the November meeting, on request of the President, (according to our by-laws) be a call-in only meeting. The December meeting will take place in person. The January meeting could be held in Springfield just before the anticipated annual Awards Banquet.

**Hawthorne/2<sup>nd</sup> Racetrack Update:** Nothing new to report on Hawthorne. Regarding another racetrack, Marty and Tony met with members of the Richton Park Village Board. We presented them with a letter of support. They were receptive to the idea of a racetrack/casino. We will continue the follow-up.

**Executive Directors Report:** IRB dates hearing was held in September. We will race 49 days at Hawthorne. We also have agreement with Hawthorne to race 15 more in Springfield. We will be able to race almost seven months straight when we start at Springfield in late May and go until the end of the year. The plan is then to stay at Hawthorne for January-February of 2024. Attended the Chicago H.S. of Ag. Sciences and presented a check to them for \$1,000. They will also hang an IHHA banner in their paddock. Stall rent has been paid for the Springfield races. It totaled almost \$9,000 for the year. A decision needs to be made regrading this cost next year. Still waiting on payment from Hawthorne from the NOC money. They are awaiting \$150k from the Dept. Of Ag.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Legislative** – PointsBet and Stronach Group have announced an ADW partnership. Churchill Downs and Fan Dual have similar. We'll stay close to this and see what it all means for us. Aurora and Peoria riverboats are saying they will be seeking to move their boats from their current physical position. Still, they will need to stay within the city limits. We are hearing that veto session may focus on a single issue and not include gaming bills or anything controversial. We should be expecting a push for I-Gaming in the Spring of 2023.

**Grassroots and Membership** – We will schedule a membership committee call to determine any plans for a 2023 membership drive. Cost of membership and any giveaways will be discussed.

**County Fairs** – Rainout money from the Springfield Fall Reviews will be added on to the Spring Preview races scheduled for May of 2023. The standardbred advisory board will meet and discuss all dates and particulars.

**Race Track Condition and Backstretch** – Hawthorne with an assist from the ITHA has paved the backstretch properly. No more hot-patching but a smooth evenly paved road.

**Legal** – Regarding our By-laws, it is believed that the President can call for a phone-in or in-person meeting at any time, even when one is not scheduled. The Executive Committee of the IHHA can act any time on behalf of the entire board. It was also suggested that for the stability of the board, this should only be done under very special circumstances and not become a regular habit.

**Purse Account** – Have not received a purse report from Hawthorne in over four weeks. Currently we are \$2.5 million in the hole. We anticipate year end will be \$2.5-\$3m.

**Payment of Bills** – No quorum. Motion will be made to pay the October bills at the next meeting when a quorum exists.

**Finance** – nothing to report.

**Public relations/social media** – Andrew Mack will work with Hawthorne to announce the construction start-up.

**Breeders** – nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40.