

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 – 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Searle, Chupp, Hansen, H. Williams, Beals, Engel, Leonard, Grummel, Fairley, Coleman, Rath, Husted, Zawistowski, Teefey, Franco.

Directors Absent:

Others: Somone, Brubaker, Watson, Hoffmann, Gary Mack.

Approval of November, 2020 Agenda: Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Rath. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of October 2020 BOD Minutes: Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Engel. All in favor. Motion passed.

Executive Directors Report: Reported frustration with getting clear answers concerning the Dept. of Ag and Hawthorne and the paying out of purses. Clark and Tony will both keep at it. We were asked to take a formal ownership of the “Trottingham” concept. Will send out a one page synopsis to everyone soon to refresh everyone’s memory of the the specifics before doing so. Ed commented a concern on how racing friendly Hawthorne will be when their racino is completed. Conversation ensued. IRB meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 17. “Nick It Up’ the second Standardbred license that originally requested dates in Sept. but then deferred that request to another time is not on the agenda. A 2021 contract is being worked on and will be discussed later in the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Changes in the hierarchy of the General Assembly are being made, others being suggested. Fair tax referendum failed. There will be significant budget cuts which will probably effect next year’s Dept. of Ag. funding. The traditional veto session for Nov. has been cancelled because of Covid. We have our breeder bill front and ready to move when able. We will continue to try and get a fair share of sports betting. Online gaming is becoming a hot topic due to the lack of current tax revenue and how it would fit into the current Covid crisis.

Grassroots and Membership – The committee has met and it was decided that membership should stay the same price and no extra gift will be offered. The hope will be that entering 2022, we could offer our members something special. There was discussion about multiple year memberships. Motion to accept the recommendation of the committee was made by Teefey, seconded by Williams, motion passes.

County Fairs –All but about \$18,000 of purse money is still owed to the County Fairs.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Hawthorne recently cancelled the t-bred races due to high winds and a power outage resulting in no lights.

Legal – a paragraph by paragraph conversation on the 2021 contract ensued. The grueling marathon concluded after about a three hour discussion. The ideas will now be inserted into the contract, where the negotiating committee will look at the specific language, tweak if need be, and then sent on to Hawthorne to begin the process.

Purse Account – We anticipate finishing the year around \$750,000 in the hole. Any opinions or thoughts concerning the 2021 condition sheet should be brought to Angie who, along with that committee will discuss them with Robin.

Payment of Bills – Motion by Beals to pay the bills, seconded by Hansen. All in favor, motion passes.

Finance – Nothing.

Public Relations/Social Media – Nothing.

Breeders – Shipped semen was discussed. The USTA annual banquet was discussed. Because of its cancellation, what is the status of the year/end awards? Ed will look into the details and let everyone know.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by H. Williams, seconded by Grummel. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.