

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020 – 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE CALL

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

Directors Absent: Teefey, Franco

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

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

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

Executive Directors Report: We have filed our PPP loan forgiveness application. A condensed version was recently announced for anyone that applied for less than \$50k. October IRB meeting was held and nothing significant was discussed. As a reminder, “Nick It Up,” the other Standardbred racetrack to originally apply for dates was deferred for discussion to either the November or December IRB meeting. Our 2019 tax return and audit has been completed. We should have a report on the audit findings by our Nov. meeting. Work on our 2021 budget has started. If anyone has any suggested additions or subtractions from last year, please let me know in the next month or so. It’s that time of the year when we chase our money that comes from the state thru the Dept. Of Ag. Hawthorne says they will pay NOC purses in full it when 100% is available. 25% of that money comes from Dept. of Ag for NOC but not the other 75%.

Discussion ensued that at least that amount or at least the starting and nomination money should be paid. And what about the driver/trainer fees coming out of owners account but not being made available to the driver or trainer? Tony will address with Hawthorne again while a coordinated effort with the Dept. of Ag. will continue on all fronts to try and expedite that process.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Because of the delay every year concerning the wait on State money due to purses, a collective plan will be attempted to fix this problem in the future. Once allowed to meet face to face, we will meet with the Dept. of Ag., the Comptroller’s office and Hawthorne to remedy this situation for next year. Not much is expected to happen during the Fall Veto session. Casinos are discussing trying to legalize online gaming. We have been in contact with them to remind them that for our support, we will need to be included. Continue to work on getting the agreed to fix on our breeders issue called for a vote. Once allowed, hosting a lobby day should be explored.

Grassroots and Membership – Final count for the year will be 435. 2019 was 441.

County Fairs – As noted above, still working on getting the money from the state for the County Fairs races which were held at Springfield and DuQuoin throughout the year.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – truck traffic for the construction of the racino has begun. A large parking area for those trucks has begun. A concern was raised for some of the tack trailers that are currently on the backstretch and what might happen to them. It will be looked into.

Legal – A reminder to all to let Tony and Al know any contract concerns that you want negotiated.

Purse Account – Currently at a negative \$2 million. With the expected ADW tax still due and simulcasting the remainder of the year, we anticipate finishing the year a negative \$1 million.

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

Finance – a reminder to get suggested 2021 budget changes submitted and ready for discussion at the November meeting.

Public Relations/Social Media – Nothing new at this time.

Breeders – Nothing to report.

A discussion ensued concerning next year's condition sheet and NOC rules. Horses getting awarded points for the NOC races that are part of the Springfield State Fair was discussed. Small crops was cited as the overall reason. We will seek an opinion from the Dept. of Ag. on this. Any other ideas or suggestions like this that you want addressed should be brought up sooner rather than later.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by H. Williams, seconded by Beals. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.