

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, January 18, 2021 – 1:00 PM
CONFERENCE CALL

Directors Present: Fairley, Engel, Beals, Leonard, Hansen, Coleman, Williams, Searle, Zawistowski, Husted.

Directors Absent: Grummel, Rath, Franco, Chupp, Teefey.

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

Approval of January 2021 Agenda: Motion by H. Williams, seconded by Engel. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

Executive Directors Report: New criteria for PPP loans has been announced and this time we are clearly not eligible. All of the 2020 ADW surtax and surcharge money has been reported and this was one of the few positives from the year as we increased that dollar amount for purses to \$1.4m. Final agreement on the Hawthorne contract is moving slower than expected, we will discuss later. Spoke with Dept. Of Ag. regarding approval of IHHA County Fair races and also on a new stake. Mike Hoffmann, an IHHA lobbyist for over 13 years has decided to retire. Best wishes to him. A legislative “wish list” is being compiled and will be discussed at a legislative committee meeting within the next 2-3 weeks.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – “Lame Duck session has come and gone and it had no effect on us. No gaming movement on any fronts. There has been only one substantive bill filed so far and that is HB2 which is the same bill as last year regarding eliminating the 35 mile rule for a new Standardbred track and amends the “Eminent Domain Act.” The year will start with Covid protocols in place which may result in fewer session days. Chris Welch has replaced Mike Madigan as the new Speaker of the House. We anticipate budget issues to be the driving force behind this year’s session. There will be cuts and we should anticipate the possibility of our traditional Dept. Of Ag. money being cut or even eliminated. We are awaiting for the leaders of the committees to be named.

Grassroots and Membership – current membership stands at 225, down from 255 at this time last year but last year we were starting in February so this is not unexpected. E-mails and another letter will be sent out.

County Fairs – hopefully the fairs will be able to re-open this year after last year’s Covid situation forced them to be cancelled. A contingency plan will be in place if those scheduled races need to be moved to the Fairgrounds.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – Nothing to report.

Legal – Our current 2021 contract with Hawthorne is still pending. We sent our latest proposal to them on Dec. 18. Despite numerous assurances from them that a reply was close, we have not heard back from them concerning the issues being debated.

Purse Account – It appears likely that we will be approximately \$100k in the hole around opening night, May 7th.

Payment of Bills – Pending Al Beals approving of the bills one day later this week, a motion was made by Williams and seconded by Engel to pay the bills on approval from Al Beals. Motion passed.

Finance – Nothing to report.

Public Relations/Social Media – Nothing to report.

Breeders – A 2021 stallion list is being sought out. It was reported that one should be available by the end of this month.

Motion to adjourn by Hansen, seconded by Williams. Meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.