

MHRI Board meeting
Thursday December 14, 2017
Perkins Faribault

Present: Mark Corless, Vern Devine, Bob Lems, Cindy Ivy, Kyle VanOtterloo, Ulf Holm-Johansen, Jessica Johnson, Greg Budach, Justin Anfinson, (Rick Magee Via phone) & Dan Poprawski

Absent: Ron Banks

Agenda: Justin moved to approve 2nd by Kyle & carried.

Minutes: Mark moved & Justin 2nd the motion to approve the minutes from the Nov. 24th meeting which carried.

Treasurer's report: Mark moved & Justin 2nd to approve the treasurer's report which carried.

Director's report- Dan composed the e-mail list of 137 members with 29 that he couldn't find. Jessica will try to help him locate the California people who he hasn't been able to make contact with. He is also preparing to send out 1099's & mentioned the need to included stall reimbursement payments in that group.

Dan asked about the validity of awards for the fairs due to the limited amount of races. The board agreed to do the horses this year & will look at this in future years.

Breeders fund allocations: Kyle updated & shared with the board on Joe Scurto's position. Kyle pointed out the disparity between colts & fillies & joe agreed to even out the disparity. We stated that his proposal is not acceptable with MHRI & Joe stated that it's the MRC's decision.

Running Aces is willing to supplement up to \$35,000 per race if up to a 9 horse field but less if there are less horses.

We need to make sure the full commission knows our position. Cindy suggested a subgroup or committee needs to take action to help create equality between Trotters & Pacers. Kyle suggested we plan to work with Running Aces to create the equality in case we can't make any headway with the commission. We need to make our case to the commission prior to their next meeting since this appears to be an action item at that meeting. We need to take action now by communicating directly with the commission.

We discussed starting with the letter we had written but never submitted last year. A small group or committee should present it to the commission. Mark would be willing to hand deliver the letter to each commissioner. It would need to be completed by Tuesday so the board can review in time to print & submit to the MRC.

In early January, Dan, Kyle, Jessica, Rick, & Ulf will conference with Ben regarding plans for a compromise in case the commission won't change their view.

MRC & Running Aces plan for Minnesota bonus are to progressively increase to 15% in 2018, 20% in 2019, & 25% IN 2020 FOR MN bred horses racing in open company. They proposed dropping the MN owned 10% bonus which we need to fight. They also proposed cutting fair funding down to \$50,000 which we also need to fight.

We discussed qualifications for finals night and some possible changes. Ben would like to keep it as simple as possible.

Racing rules committee: We discussed off track testing which as proposed may require the trainer to bring their horse to the track up to 40 hours prior to their race.

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Jessica expressed concerns about some of the proposed rule changes regarding 7876.00 and asked for clarity on those rules that appear to contradict with harness racing rules.

Mark will send an e-mail asking the MRC for clarity.

Dan will put together a summary of rule changes that affect us to send out to the membership.

Claiming rule- there is movement towards the claimant voiding a claim if the horse comes off the track lame. There are also some additions to rules regarding threatening language or conduct. There also needs to be some clarification to the rules regarding racing equipment, (tape, rubber bands, & other non-racing equipment).

Jessica expressed concerns about the scratch rule- 5 days vs. 7 days, a horse could potentially be off for 14 days under that scenario. Dan will mention it to the commission. The pylon rule needs more clarity rather than just being at the judge's discretion. Also some question about the appeals process changes.

Annual meeting discussion- there has been no response from Ron Burke as a possible speaker. (Houles prizes) we will ask for a discount of the total prize package. Door prizes should be as simple as possible. Raffle prizes we will limit to \$1,000. There was some question about the money raised at the stallion auction. Who is making sure we are collecting all the funds etc. Are all the funds collected allocated for marketing?

We discussed Minnesota residency for the board: **Mark moved to use the rule from our 2017 condition book regarding Minnesota owned as our definition of Minnesota resident, adding a Minnesota new vehicle registration as another means of verification - 2nd by Cindy & carried.**

Hall of fame discussion- We have had a nomination of Glen Wilson as well as Del Insko & Ron Banks so far. We will need to move on this next meeting to complete in time for the annual meeting.

Greg mentioned that according to state law entry fees are considered taxable so we will need to look into this further.

Jessica updated the board on Cowboy Cold & mentioned Aces has enough funding set aside to cover transportation.

Jessica mentioned her concerns about Dan coming to her residence & challenged him for the reasoning. She asked him to not do that again.

Future meetings: January 11th 6:30 p.m. Dan is gone from Jan. 8th to the 11th.

Rick moved to adjourn 2nd by Mark & carried.

Kyle moved to adjourn, 2nd by Mark & carried

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