

MHRI Board meeting
Monday March 13, 2017
Perkins -Lakeville

Present: Ron Banks, Mark Corless, Bob Lems, Ulf Holm Johansen, Greg Budach, Rick Magee, Cindy Ivy, Kyle VanOtterloo, Justin Anfinson (Jessica Johnson attended Via Skype), and Dan Poprawski

Absent: Vern Devine

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Agenda- Mark moved after asking to discuss qualifiers during the meet & Kyle 2nd to approve the agenda which carried.

Minutes: Mark moved to approve the minutes as amended from 2/1/17 which was 2nd by Cindy & carried.

Treasurer's report: Mark moved & Kyle 2nd the treasures report for 2/1/17 & it carried.

Executive secretaries report: Dan updated the board on the HHI meetings in Las Vegas. He mentioned that it was a very positive message from us as well as Pennsylvania & Ohio.

The horse expo is set for April 21, 22, & 23. Mikaela & Jessica are on top of that & will be ready.

The Web site is up & running but needs some work. Dan is learning & will get it updated as we move forward.

The Racing commission still has not hired a presiding judge but they have 2 associate judges hired.

Ben made a trip to Cal Expo to recruit horsemen as well as explaining the bonus incentive that we voted on.

Marketing update- Jessica spoke about the new owner open houses; they are planning for the last Monday in July and planning to have interested trainers there. They have two horses lined up for the summer fling stable as well as a horse for the 25% corporate sponsorship that Aces is putting together.

Running Aces is handling the marketing & recruitment of the corporate sponsorship/ownership.

Mikaela presented an idea for the new owner marketing fund where a new Minnesota resident owner would be eligible for up to \$1,000 Bonus plus waive their MHRI membership, USTA membership & MRC license fees the first year. They are still finalizing the rules but for now they must be 18, a Minnesota resident, and have a cumulative ownership of at least 30 days. They must also race at Running Aces at least 1 time or in Minnesota twice.

Four or five trainers are willing to take on new owners. Mikaela & Jessica will get us copies of the plan thus far.

Mark suggested recognizing Mikaela, Jessica, Tabby, Alexia, & Jamie for all their efforts, Great Job all!

Mikaela also mentioned a "meet the horse" contest that they are planning.

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Stall application discussion- there are 10 to 12 applications in thus far. They are not due for another week. We anticipate over 400 horses. Allocations will be April 1st & the board feels that we need to review. Dan will forward the list to the board once completed so we can discuss the results on March 27th via phone conference on March 27th. The MRC will offer input as well.

County fair schedule & purse structure-

Joe Scurto sent a letter to Dan presenting his review of how they'd like us to distribute purses for our fairs & fall meet & finals night.

The board feels like he's overstepping & trying to dictate too much on how we allocate these funds.

We need to address our concerns to Tom Depasquale as well as the full commission if necessary.

We discussed finals night & believe the base purse should be the same for all classes & then adjust up based on number of starters.

We reviewed the calendar & discussed qualifiers, Mark mentioned that it would be beneficial to have 2 per week but if not then would like the qualifiers on Tuesday if possible. Everyone agreed that we should suggest that.

Kyle suggested another qualifier on opening day. We also discussed the MN bred race schedule & agreed to move the 3 year old MN bred trot & pace the week end of 7/1 to June 17th making the class on July 1 & 2 Open for 3 year old trotters & pacers.

We discussed backstretch rules & regulations- There will be a 5 person committee consisting of 2 horse people, 2 track personnel, & a judge to come up with clear rules on dogs, jogging in the barn area etc.

Dan mentioned that Aces had mentioned to him they are planning to enforce the rules & are looking for consistency.

Vets will be covered this year and they will be getting their schedule to Dan.

Board of director's election: Rick nominated Bob for president which was 2nd by Ulf with no other nominations Bob accepted.

Sec/Treas. Mark nominated Greg 2nd by Jessica, Ulf nominated Jessica with no 2nd Greg accepted the nomination.

Vice President Jessica nominated Mark, Cindy nominated Kyle who declined due to his schedule, Bob nominated Rick with no 2nd we took a vote- Results Rick 6 to Mark 4.

Next meeting a teleconference on Monday March 27th & full board meeting Monday April 27th 7:00 p.m.

Kyle moved to adjourn, 2nd by Bob & carried.

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