

MHRI Board meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2016 6:30
Perkins Lakeville

Present: Mark Corless, Bob Lems, Michael Banitt, Ulf Holm Johansen, Greg Budach, Jessica Johnson, Ron Banks, Vern Devine, Cindy Ivy, Justin Anfinson, Rick Magee and Dan Poprawski

Absent:

Guest: Amanda Prutzman

Mark called the meeting to order 6:30p.m. with the adoption of the agenda.

Mark mentioned that the Minnesota Racing commission has stated that the way we currently fund our fairs will not continue after 2016. Amanda mentioned that Joe Scurto feels that regulated card club funds should not be going to unregulated county fair races. She believes the commissioners are split on the issue. We need to come up with questions that we would like to bring to the commissioners but Tom DePasquale & Joe Scurto need to agree to the questions we pose. We need to prepare by informing Amanda how other states are handling their county fair funding, Dan will put together as much info as he can accumulate from other states. We need to show examples of unregulated funds being used both in & outside Minnesota.

We discussed the 3 existing fairs & determined that we need to stand firm on those 3 with some flexibility on St. Peter's date so it no longer conflicts with Running Aces. Are we willing to race for less money at these three events? Everyone would be comfortable with having the extended fall meets at Aces if necessary.

In Summary: #1 we need to extend our season into fall, #2 the \$\$ has to be worthwhile, #3 we need to be willing to have the fall meets at Aces.

Amanda will present at the April commission meeting, #1 they are overstepping & they should leave us be We're already regulated & sanctioned by the USTA. #2 Address the MRC what is their problem with what we're doing? What do we need to change? #3 We are willing to negotiate dates, location, & \$\$ if need be.

Amanda discussed the ADW bill and it appears that the language is what we wanted. She mentioned that we need to write a letter of support. Mark volunteered to draft a letter & copy the board prior to sending it to Amanda to present.

We reviewed the minutes from the last to board meetings with a motion to approve after one minor correction by Bob Lems, 2nd by Michael Banitt & carried.

Treasurer's report was reviewed by Greg with Justin Anfinson moving to approve, 2nd by Ulf Holm-Johansen & carried.

President's corner: Mark mentioned the horse we adopted developed a neurologic disorder and had to be euthanized. The shelter that hosted him is looking for help in building a loafing shed this summer & is looking for volunteers to help with assembly. They will also pursue a potential new rescue horse.

Mark also mentioned the passing of commissioner Jim Lane's wife recently and asked the board to make a \$100 donation to the hay bank that she was fond of sponsoring. Ulf Holm-Johansen moved to make this donation 2nd by Jessica Johnson & carried.

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Mark also mentioned that a branch of the U of M is doing an economic impact study & suggested that we participate. They have a meeting scheduled for March 11th at Canterbury & encouraged anyone interested to attend.

Dan presented the county fair schedule: July 4th at Cannon Falls, August 10th at St. Peter, September 10th & 11th at Wheaton, September 17th at Cannon Falls, September 24th at St. Peter, & October 1st at Cannon Falls. **Bob Lems moved to approve this schedule which was 2nd by Rick Magee & carried.**

Jessica addressed the group regarding the marketing committee, reviewing last year's plan and suggesting we do a lot of the same things this year. She is looking for budget approval similar to last year's number. She mentioned that Tattlers jet is coming back again this year & that Aces is hoping to do a couple more feature events similar to finals night. She mentioned a plan that Aces has to recruit larger companies to invest in a horse & then have race offs between the different companies horses once a month. Running Aces would buy a horse to show their commitment to invest in the program. **Bob Lems moved to allocate \$9,000 to the marketing committee for the 2016 program, 2nd by Vern Devine & carried.**

We talked briefly about the condition sheet in the packet & that most people seem to be relatively happy with it at first glance.

Dan mentioned the Minnesota bred incentive program & how it would help aged horses giving them bonus money for all races. He suggested offering a 15% bonus to MN bred & the program would cost about \$61,000. He said Nancy is favorable to the idea.

Dan also suggested raising minimum drivers fees up to \$20 or \$25. After some discussion, **Rick Magee moved to raise the minimum fee up to \$25, 2nd by Jessica Johnson & carried 10:1.**

Jessica mentioned an email she received from Dee Leftwitch asking for his photography fee up front instead of being split over 3 months. **Ulf Holm-Johansen moved to pay him his fee in full up front which was 2nd by Cindy Ivy & carried.**

Horsemen housing discussion came up; Running Aces is trying to liquidate the hotel they own and would like to provide an upgrade. They are exploring the possibility of trailer hook ups, as well as other options for horsemen including a discounted rate at one of the nearby hotels. The MRC is pressuring Aces to provide adequate housing and it may be a temporary solution for this year with something more permanent in the future.

HHI conference: Dan is planning to attend this conference and talk about the Minnesota program. He is looking forward to getting feedback from others regarding some of the things we talked about. He will also check into new marketing ideas.

The subject of family memberships came up & there is a need for clarification. Greg will review past minutes to see what actions we took regarding memberships.

Cindy mentioned a Facebook comment about the Hall of Fame. We discussed the Hall of Fame briefly & the need for guidelines to make sure errors aren't made.

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Election of Officers: Ulf Holm-Johansen moved to retain Mark Corless as president, with no 2nd or further discussion Mark was nominated for president by Ulf, Michael Banitt nominated Bob Lems. Ron Banks moved that nominations cease, 2nd by Michael Banitt & carried.

Votes were tallied with Bob Lems winning by a margin of 7:4.

Greg Budach then nominated Jessica Johnson as Vice President, with a 2nd by Vern Devine. With no other nominations, the motion carried.

Justin Anfinson nominated Greg Budach as Secretary/Treasurer Ron Banks moved for a unanimous ballot which was 2nd by Justin & carried.

Next board meeting- Thursday March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakeville Perkins.

Justin Anfinson moved to adjourn 2nd by Michael Banitt & carried.