

MHRI Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 2015 3:00 p.m.
Wheaton fair grounds

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Present: Mark Corless, Bob Lems, Michael Banitt, Ulf Holm Johansen, Greg Budach, Justin Anfinson, Jessica Johnson, Ron Banks, Cindy Ivy, and Susan Schroeder

Absent: Kyle VanOtterloo, Ulf Holm-Johansen, Vern Devine

Mark called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Agenda was adopted after adding request for resolution to add Dan as signer & remove Susan from checking accounts.

Reviewed the minutes from the August 10th meeting as presented by Greg, Bob moved to approve, 2nd by Justin & carried.

Treasurers report by Greg with a motion to approve by Bob 2nd by Jessica & carried.

Greg presented a resolution to add Dan Poprawski & remove Susan Schroeder as signer on our checking accounts. Bob moved to approve the resolution, which was 2nd by Jessica & carried.

President's corner- purse money going to the fairs is being challenged by Joe Scurto of the racing commission. They've questioned the validity of the fairs, & competition for Running Aces as well as the level of drug testing we're performing. They are having trouble finding anything in Statute that supports the money we're allocating for the fairs. They are seriously looking to eliminate most fair funding altogether beginning in 2016.

We discussed the dates proposal for 2016 racing 3 days per week & extending longer into September instead of the 4 day schedule.

Betting would do better with a 10 or 11 race card racing fewer days plus relieving pressure on the horses as well.

Mark is meeting with Aces on Monday to discuss & start planning for next year & beyond with a proposal to start in May going into early September.

Mark negotiated a consulting fee with Susan if we need her help. She would get \$40 per hour but billable in as little as 15 minute increments. Mark also mentioned that we will have a \$144 cancellation fee for the internet that Susan had committed to.

Mark mentioned that the Applebee's manager Scott Pepard has expressed interest in working with us to promote harness racing.

Mark also talked about the washer & dryers & that he can't get CSC to return calls & service the machines.

We discussed the possibility of guaranteeing purse checks. Currently owners have to wait until all drug test are completed to get paid. There is a push for MHRI to guarantee the funds to enable people to get paid sooner. One suggestion was to hold checks only on horses that are being tested.

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We discussed judges for next year for the fairs, All three judges from Aces would be available for the fairs if needed. Mark would like us to make a decision by November as to how we want to proceed.

There was talk about an incentive program for 2016 to attract more trainers to Aces next year. We need to wait to see what the MRC & Aces is proposing before we can take any action. The initial thought is for them to take money out of the purse account to fund any proposal.

We need to look at a more legitimate photo finish sytem for the fairs for 2016.

Next board meeting set tentatively for 10:00 a.m. next week prior to the races at Cannon Falls.

Annual meeting dates are set for Saturday Feb. 6th 2016.

Dan asked if he could be paid as a contract employee rather than a regular employee. It would be mutually beneficial in that he could take a deduction for living expenses and he would be responsible for his own taxes. It would cost us less due to not being responsible for social security tax. Mark will contact our lawyer for advice, Greg will check with our CPA, & Jessica will talk with Royal Roland.

Jessica moved to adjourn 2nd by Michael & carried