

ASHA Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of 11 April, 2015

Prepared by Michelle Aschim

In Attendance: Norm Kennedy, Bill Andrew, John Hind, Jim Rhodes, Rod Starkewski, Connie Kolthammer, Ryan Grundy, Fred Gillis (Michelle Aschim taking minutes, no vote). The following attended via phone conference: Diane Bertrand, Jamie Gray, & Brandon Campbell. Meeting called to order at 2:37pm.

1) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda made by Jim Rhodes and seconded by John Hind. All in favour, motion carried.

2) Approval of Minutes of previous Director Meeting, held on 13 December, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes made by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by Jim Rhodes. All in favour, motion carried.

3) HRA Update -Norm Kennedy

Norm reported the following:

- i)* Bill 4 is under discussion and will not be finalized until summer. At that time, Norm's term will be completed. There was discussion regarding who might be filling seats on the HRA board. Much of the HRA board is focused on the upcoming provincial election.
- ii)* The next meeting is scheduled for the 24th (of April) and the Finance and Audit Committee met on April 10th where they met with the auditors. The balance sheet has been reviewed and returned to acceptable.

4) 2014 Racing

a) Financial Report Highlights – John Hind

The GST was off at the beginning of December of 2013. John filed a notice of objection with Canada Revenue Agency that has now been sorted out as of January 2015 and a (GST) credit was received. The books are now current and ASHA can request to the CRA to file our GST annually instead of quarterly. John reviewed the audited financial statements with the board for the AGM. As predicted, the audit revealed a deficit due to a very difficult year. The next year, 2015, is anticipated to be a better year financially for numerous reasons.

Motion made by Bill Andrew for the approval of the financial statements as presented for the AGM and seconded by Connie Kolthammer. All in favour, motion carried.

b) Handle Report - Fred Gillis

Fred discussed the race days at Northlands in January. Also reported were details regarding payouts, stall rent and southern simulcast. Simulcasting is anticipated to pick up over the next quarter.

c) Alberta Downs, B-Racing/Barns –Fred Gillis

With the HRA meeting on the 24th (of April), race dates for Alberta Downs as a B track are pending. Bob Allen is wanting more dates than can be agreed upon; there are pending conditions on his license determining the outcome of race dates and this will be discussed at the upcoming meeting. In addition, the futures of the barns at Alberta Downs owned by ASHA were discussed.

Motion made by Bill Andrew that we agree to sell the barns and stalls owned by ASHA from the Alberta Downs location giving Olds Ag. Society first offer but get them sold, as is where is; motion seconded by Connie. All in favour, motion carried.

5) Committee Reports:

a) Breeders Committee - Connie Kolthammer

The date of the 2015 Yearling Sale is September 4th, 2015 and the deadline for applications is May 1st, 2015. The entry fee is the same as last year at \$150 plus GST.

Fred also mentioned the nomination payments are due to ASHA on or before May 15th for the four new stakes races for three year olds racing in 2017 (The Lady Luck, Ralph Klein Memorial, Northlands Filly Pace and Western Canadian Pacing Derby). The information package was sent off to United States Stakes & Futurity Guide, Standardbred Canada, as well as Joanne's Staking Service. Questions were brought forth by Diane regarding notices for yearling payments and missed sustained payments. It was decided this should be discussed at the Breeders meetings. Diane also raised concern regarding the multiple locations of where stake payments are made to ASHA and Standardbred Canada, and the potential risks it might pose. Bill brought up the concerning drop in number of registered Standardbred foals over the previous 10 years. With the new impetus from Century Downs Racetrack, there is cautious anticipation of increased revenue for breeders in the future. It was also noted that the Eastern United States is desperate for racing stock.

b) Owners Committee – Diane Bertrand

With all the excitement surrounding the opening of the new facility, there have been many plans; the idea of an Owners Appreciation Day with a BBQ out front at Century, to be held sometime in the near future, was well received by the board. Bill suggested putting together a "New Owners Package" to elevate interest in the industry.

c) Alberta Downs - Drivers and Trainers committee Brandon Campbell

Brandon addressed concern from the horsemen that Century will not be ready for the Grand Opening. If Century does not create a positive experience to the public on the first day, they run the risk of not generating returning customers. Another concern raised was that it would seem there is nowhere yet for families to watch the racing since the Casino is not child friendly. Fred alleviated Brandon's concern to relay to the horsemen that (8) food trucks have been hired, along with extra tents and bleacher seating specifically for the Grand Opening, children included.

Brandon was asked about stables coming from B.C. Jamie and Brandon replied that there isn't many stables coming as it's perceived there is nowhere to stable (at no charge), and secondly they haven't the financial means to travel over the mountains to race, at least not at this time. Jackson Wittup should forward information regarding stabling at Olds so that stables (from B.C.) will have somewhere to stay in between race days at Balzac. The responsibility to look after this issue lies with Century Downs and not ASHA.

Connie brought forward from Jackson if it was feasible to race next weekend or to qualify, as the track and facility is not quite ready. Waiting one more week for purse money would be in the best interest of all concerned.

Motion made by Brandon to drop the Stakes of the 18th & 19th of April and instead hold qualifiers that weekend, and move the overnights on the opening weekend of April 25th & 26th, with the Prairie Girls and Prairie Boys divisions on May 2nd & May 3rd; motion seconded by Diane. All in favour, motion carried.

6) New Business

a) Book keeping – Fred Gillis

As part of the negotiation of the contract committee, Colleen Kennedy is now employed by ASHA to conduct the book keeping for Century Downs administering the purse accounts.

b) ASHA Membership/Liability Insurance – Fred Gillis

Although it is still not mandatory to be a member of ASHA, it is now out there that for liability coverage, Century Downs Racetrack and Casino is enforcing ASHA membership as ASHA has bought a five million dollar liability policy to cover the (ASHA) members at Century.

Fred also brought up that there are talks ongoing with the tele-theatre group in Las Vegas for Century Downs to be shown. Fred and Jim Reed are going to put a package together to present to their board with a bit of promotional marketing to assist with the track pools.

c) Policy on NSF Cheques – John Hind

ASHA addressed the lack of policy behind NSF cheques.

Motion made by John that upon discovery of a cheque for Stallion Directory, Nominations, or Stakes Entries going NSF, the payee has 72 hours (three business days) to make alternate payment or the entry will be disqualified, no exceptions. There will also be a \$50.00 service charge applied; motion seconded by Connie. All in favour, motion carried.

d) Situation with a missed yearling payment – Fred Gillis

ASHA had a discussion regarding a missed yearling payment, and after review, this single circumstance will be pardoned.

Motion made by Jim that we accept this single entry. Noted that this is not to set a precedent and this is a onetime event. Discussion continued regarding late payments for Sire Stakes, and this will be discussed with the Breeders Committee. Connie seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried.

e) O'Brien Awards - Norman Kennedy

A request for proposal was received for ASHA/Century to host the O'Brien Awards for 2016, but the consensus from the Board was to hold off until the following year and let the dust settle with the new facility.

f) Hotels – Fred Gillis

The possibility of getting room rates for horsemen needing hotels overnight during race days from the Comfort Inn was researched and it was discovered that Motel 6 could give a good deal for \$99/night. The Comfort Inn could only offer a rate of \$120/night. Motel 6 would get back to us with a confirmed quote.

g) 2017 Driving Challenge – Diane Bertrand

Diane has a meeting May 20th and needs a firm offer of how much can be committed to the World Driving Challenge for 2017. Diane has requested to Fred to see if a solid commitment could be made, and if more can be requested.

h) AGM April 18th - Fred Gillis

Fred reminded all of the AGM, at the Radisson Hotel. Doors will open at 5 pm and meeting to commence at 5:45. Check the website for directions and details if required.

Norm moved the adjournment for the meeting, seconded by Connie 4:06 pm.