



## **ASHA Board of Directors Meeting**

### **Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> of January, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Blair Corbeil, Rod Starkewski, Connie Kolthammer, Jamie Gray, Kelly Hoerd, John Hind, Ryan Grundy, Diane Bertrand, Norman Kennedy (attended portion of meeting via speaker phone in conference call), Bill Andrew and Sam Johnson. Also, present Fred Gillis, and Michelle Desjardins. Meeting called to order at 4:44 pm.

**1) Approval of the Agenda –**

**Moved by** Connie Kolthammer and seconded by John Hind for approval of the agenda.

**Motion Carried.**

**2) Approval of Minutes of previous Director Meeting held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 –**

**Moved by** Diane Bertrand and seconded by Connie Kolthammer that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 approved.

**Motion Carried.**

**3) HRA Update – Bill Andrew-**

Bill reported the following from HRA-

- Dates: the schedule is almost set and Fred will update later in the meeting.
- Purses: John and Sam are involved in the (purse) split determination. A committee will return to the board with recommendations for 2018.
- Bill conducted a Breeders meeting at HRA level.
- During a meeting held earlier in the month in Red Deer, attending members drafted a document to assist HRA in revealing to the government how we can grow racing revenue. Ideas presented by ASHA in a power point presentation and it was well received. The balance of the board will receive the presentation soon
- Discussion continued regarding the new ASHA HRA director and the decision; tabled pending Bill talking with Blair.

**4) 2016 Racing**

a) Financial Report to September 2016 – John Hind

John presented the report to show that to the end of November the organization breaks even. The report reveals a negative balance by the end of December as predicted due to stabling.

b) 2016 Handle Report – Fred Gillis

With the actual numbers in, the Simulcast handle is down further than expected, however money from previous year carried over with the shortfall anticipated. To compensate, purses will be trimmed slightly, leaving the Stakes alone.

**5) Racing 2017**

a) Stabling at Century Downs– Fred Gillis

As agreed by Century Downs Racetrack and Casino, ASHA will not administer stabling for 2017. Instead, CDRC will administer an environmental fee for bedding (shavings) and for removal of soiled bedding, deducted from the purse accounts.

**Moved by** John Hind and seconded by Jamie Gray that ASHA accepts the proposed changes to the stabling contract as presented.

**Motion Carried.**

b) Race Calendar– Fred Gillis

Fred presented a draft of the race calendar. All concerning race - tracks agree to the dates proposed. Upon approval from ASHA, the calendar requires approval from HRA before publishing.

**Moved by** Sam Johnson and seconded by John Hind to adopt the race calendar as presented. Diane requested clarification regarding Enoch's desire to host racing. Fred clarified with details regarding facility operations they are quite excited to host harness racing at their facility. Bill recommended conducting a charity race with the band chiefs; Diane stated she has some connections to make that happen.

**Motion Carried.**

**6) Committee Reports:**

a) Breeders Report – Connie Kolthammer

- Connie presented the Stakes Schedule, with Fred explaining how sponsorship funds are split and allocated. Review and discussion continued. Diane voiced concern for the Alberta Bonus. Previously agreed but not

motioned at the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, “the recommendation is not to return it for 2017 and to see how things play out in 2018 before making any promises”.

**Moved by** John Hind and seconded by Connie Kolthammer to eliminate the Owners Bonus for 2017 Racing Season and review in 2018. **Motion Carried (Vote: Nine in favour/1 opposed -Diane).**

**Moved by** Sam Johnson and seconded by John Hind to approve the 2017 race schedule as presented. **Motion Carried.**

**Moved by** Sam Johnson and seconded by Connie Kolthammer to approve the 2017 stakes schedule as presented by the Breeders Committee and include that all Sire Stakes Eliminations go for a minimum purse of \$7,500; and that the ASHA Stakes go for a minimum of \$10, 000 per division.

**Motion Carried (Vote: Nine in favour/1 opposed -Diane).**

**Moved by** Connie Kolthammer and seconded by John Hind to allow all stakes finals with eliminations to go nine horse finals; and allow any three-year-old stakes that go divisions to have up to ten horse fields.

**Motion Carried.**

- Connie voiced concern with mares coming into the province, breeding the mares and once they foal out the mares are leaving the province so the Mares Bonus is not staying in the province. Given the criteria surrounding the Mares Bonus, the board concluded after discussion, this essentially a non-issue. Connie addressed the issue surrounding the size of field for stakes races. All Super Finals will go with nine horse fields including the Consolations. Discussion continued regarding; starting two-year old’s earlier, raising entry fees for Stakes races and what horses qualify for eliminations for the 2018 race year.

**Moved by** Ryan Grundy and seconded by Kelly Hoerd to allow up to ten horse finals in all two-year-old stakes that go divisions. (Eight on the gate and two trailers). **Motion Carried.**

**Moved by** Jamie Gray and seconded by Kelly Hoerd to allow nine horse fields in all maiden races.

**Motion Carried.**

b) Owners Committee - Diane Bertrand

- No official report as most of the Owners Committee Chair’s concerns addressed through the meeting.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair - Kelly Hoerd

- Kelly formed a Drivers Committee with no meetings to date with the judges. The board recommended they conduct meetings to allow feedback from the judges, and to neutralize grievances.
- Kelly talked about promotional ideas; the power point presentation previously mentioned addressed many of the same ideas that Kelly brought forth.
- Kelly also presented the Master Conditions sheet for approval. As the Owners Committee Chair, Diane requested time to review with the purse committee. Fred to conduct an informal query (straw poll) on accepting it as presented via a conference call.
- From old business, Kelly talked to numerous businesses regarding bike insurance, and found no one to cover it. John and Diane will review insurance with possibility of self-insuring.

**7) New Business-**

- Update on Awards
  - Awards will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February in Edmonton at the Radisson Inn. Rooms are available at a special rate.
  - The committee for the Ron McLeod Award this year is Connie Kolthammer, Ryan Grundy and Jamie Gray.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

***From the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, new items***

From 3) HRA Update

- Send the Power Point presentation from the meeting to the (rest of) the ASHA Board members Investigate (and possibly obtain) a license to conduct 50/50 draws at the races, with assurance sellers *will not* enter the casino area.
- Prepare sponsorship packages for Board Members to present owners and/or other interested parties to provide adequate information to gain sponsors for the Stakes races. ASHA will publish a page on the website with sponsorship information.

From 6) Drivers/Trainers Chair report

John and Diane will review insurance with possibility of self-insuring.

***From the August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, not yet addressed***

1) from 9) New Business

Colleen and Michelle to make signage for owners’ booth

- Colleen is waiting for further information from Blair to complete this action item.

***From the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, not yet addressed***

1) from 9) New Business

- Diane and Kelly are to coordinate a schedule for the owners' booth.
- 2) from 9) New Business  
Upon Diane establishing a schedule for the "Ask the Owners" booth, Michelle is to call owners who have signed up to remind them of their scheduled time.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm