



**ASHA Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Minutes for January 31, 2024**  
(Meeting Online via Teams)

**Attended:** Don McDougall, Jackson Wittup, Kelly Crump, Jacques Lambert, Jocelyn Giesbrecht, Bret Litke, John Hind, Nancy Retzlaff, Brandon Campbell, Dave Kell and JF Gagne

**Absent:** Tim Lake

**Also attending** Executive Director Fred Gillis (no vote)

Meeting called to order at 6pm

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Jacques Lambert and seconded by Jocelyn Giesbrecht

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES for November 15, 2023**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Jacques Lambert and seconded by Dave Kelly

**3. Review of outstanding Action Items from meeting on November 15, 2023**

None.

**4. Marketing/Social Media Report – Nancy Retzlaff**

- The Grinch Race was truly successful because of the help with social media
- Met with Century Mile to discuss what went well and what we can possibly do for future events
- Worked with the Breeders Committee to complete the Stallion books. Most people are using the e-book rather than a hard copy. However, still sending out some hardcopies as per request.

**5. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall:**

**Don McDougall**

- Sat at an HRA regulatory meeting and most of the petitions/content discussed did not have much to do with ASHA and/or Standardbreds
- With regards to the on-track safety vest, Century and HRA discussed a mandate that anyone on the track who is working with horses has to wear a vest. However, the final say has to go through the big board to be passed
- Discussion about Ship-Ins and why HRA will not relax them

## John Hind

### **HRA Governance/Regulatory –**

- HRA approved a new benefit program for members with accidental death, life insurance etc. ASHA needs to get this information on our website so our members can be informed. This was effective as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024
- New Hazardous Weather Protocol on any race day cancellation and this is on the HRA website. We need to add to the ASHA website too

## **6. 2023 RACING**

### **a) Financial Report by John Hind –**

- HRA is working with the Track on 2 to move forward financially.
- Century has paid a dividend to CREG. We own 234 shares out of 600 and we invested 200K In CREG to design and build racetrack at Century Downs. Our share of dividends is 50K, meaning that we will get 25% of our money back
- Issue with Yearling Sale payments. In 2023, as per usual, ASHA dealt with third parties collecting payments for YS purchases. However, there were buyers, who had still not paid as of the end of January 2024. Moving forward if this happens again, we give 30 days and if we cannot collect from the third party, we give the buyer who signed the Acknowledgement of Purchase 7 days to pay ASHA
- Income Streams are good, every casino is above budget

### **b) Handle/Purse Report by Fred Gillis**

- ASHA started 2023 with 499,000 carried over, and for 2024 we have \$474,409 carry over
- Projected \$67,400 per day of purse money with a surplus of \$55,600 to the end of February 2024

### **c) Executive Director Report**

- Mares Bonus cheques almost complete for the deadline of February 1, 2024.
- There was a meeting about track safety and this committee will make regulations to HRA regulatory and will therefore hold Century accountable on upgrades and improvements.
- Suggested date for Yearling Sale 2024 is September 29, 2024. We need to finalize so we can book the auctioneers in advance

### **d) President's Report by Don McDougall (Given During HRA Discussion)**

- I. Social Media Update
- II. Executive Com.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **a) Breeders Committee – Kelly Crump**

- Primarily the committee has been working with Nancy on the Stallion Directory books

- Discussion about where the 2024 Yearling Sale should be this year

**b) Owners Committee (New Events and Promotions) – Jocelyn Giesbrecht**

- Keeping up with any cancellations, rescheduling and staying in communication with the Owners

**c) Drivers/Trainers Committee – Brandon Campbell**

- There is a lot of talk with people being concerned about the condition sheets
- The Trackmaster system may help, but there shouldn't be so many horses of one class and combining them all is an issue

**d) Racing Committee – Jacques Lambert**

- Working on HPI approvals and there have been a lot of horses come through the program
- Nancy helped set up the HPI form on the ASHA website and people can submit them online
- Set up a group message with the trainers to start conversations such as about horse population, as we have seen a lot of horses leave the province

**Action Item #1** – When Jacques has a committee meeting next regarding condition sheets and HPI, talk about dollar values and then bring the numbers back to the board.

**e) Promotions and Events – Bret Litke**

- The Santa Grinch race was fantastic and our social media efforts proved that we back bring people to the track, and even in the winter
- The challenge we are still having is Century buying into these events and doing more than just the bare minimum

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Membership for Caretakers** – General consensus from the caretakers is that the ASHA membership fee is too high.

**Action Item #2** – Regarding reduced memberships for Caretakers, Fred and Nancy to look into what is being offered to caretakers in other jurisdictions to minimize the cost to them.

- b) **Preference Dates** – Century discussed going back 3 days instead of 11 days, to determine who races. We will be following suit with other jurisdictions.
- c) **Stakes Sponsorship** – Reduced from \$100K to \$75K sponsorship for 2 stakes, discussion about ensuring we get everything in writing instead of a verbal deal.
- d) **Retention** – Fred and Nancy had a meeting with Century and HRA with regards to them not being happy with our retention as they do not have the barn space.
- e) **B-Track Wins** – This is an uphill battle, Century wants to get rid of them. They want to go retro-active and B-Wins count.

f) **HPI** – Recap of what has been paid out and what is still pending. Racehorses are all paid and up to date. As per Colleen’s spreadsheet, we are already at \$150K out of a total available of \$200K.

**Action Item #3** – Since we are close to our 200K allotment for the HPI Program, we can go to HRA and see if we can qualify for more. Jacques to put together the numbers and send to John.

g) **Race Secretary Conversation** – Both Josh and Jeff from Century think that the condition sheets needs to be changed. Discussion about changing the race secretary or allowing one to be the lead. The rapport with the secretary and horsemen could be improved. It was noted that they get operational money to race and their equipment and staff is covered with these funds.

h) **Integrity** – People seem to be losing confidence with HRA and their ability to regulate the backstretch and keep it clean.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **New Items from January 31, 2024**

**7d) Action Item #1** – When Jacques has a committee meeting next regarding condition sheets and HPI, talk about dollar values and then bring the numbers back to the board.

**8a) Action Item #2** – Regarding reduced memberships for Caretakers, Fred and Nancy to look into what is being offered to caretakers in other jurisdictions to minimize the cost to them.

**8f) Action Item #3** – Since we are close to our 200K allotment for the HPI Program, we can go to HRA and see if we can qualify for more. Jacques to put together the numbers and send to John.

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**REMINDER!** - **All Committee Chairs** are requested to email their reports to Laura Webster (laura@asha.ab.ca) one (1) week prior of scheduled Board Meetings so they can be sent as one package to all members of the Board.

