



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for May 14th, 2022**

conducted (in person) at Century Downs Racetrack & Casino

Attended: Don McDougall, Randy Smith Jackson Wittup, John Hind, Harold Haining, Neil Malloch, Tim Lake, Jocelyn Giesbrecht, Nathen Sobey, Bret Litke, and Kelly Crump **Absent:** Dave Kelly Also attending (no vote) Executive Director Fred Gillis, Administrative Assistant Michelle Desjardins

Meeting called to order at 6:54 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Randy Smith and seconded by Nathan Sobey that the agenda with additions be approved.

Additions:

- f) **Addition of race Days – Nathan Sobey**
- g) **ASHA Mascot Proposal**
- h) **HRA Volunteer request**

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 26th, 2022

Moved by Neil Malloch and seconded by Jocelyn Geisbrecht that with no errors or omissions noted, the minutes of the meeting of March 26th, 2022, be approved.

Motion Carried

3. Review of outstanding Action Items

All action items to date have been addressed.

4. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall:

John reported that the Track on 2 has been granted a racino license, with conditions. August 19th is the date for the UCP fundraiser, to have Premier Kenny place the first bet in the slot machine. With the changes to revenues with the Track on 2, they will be able to contribute to slot revenues, they will be able to contribute instead of requiring funding. They will require funding for this race season as the slots will not be running for this race season and are budgeted for the 2023 season. (Jackson expressed his thanks for the efforts made to push this through).

Although the budget for January and February was less than expected, March and April had much better results and put the budget back to normal.

HRA intends to review the horse population initiative for its value to the industry upon its completion after June 15th.

5. 2022 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind ([Report](#))

John presented the ASHA budget with a small surplus, with no surprises.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Nathan Sobey to approve the ASHA budget and finances as presented.

Motion Carried

b) Handle/Purse Report – Fred Gillis

The handle report Fred presented is solid and on track. The handle has been fluctuating, with the best days in January when Sugar (Shannon Doyle) was present and March for Legends Day with Vance Cameron and Roger Huston. There are plans to hold a claiming series at the Track On 2 this summer, and they agreed not to conduct the Warrior races on harness race dates.

c) President's Report – Don McDougall ([Report](#))

As presented.

Regarding regulatory, positive changes have been noticed around the track.

Fred has yet to meet with Mike Vanin. ACTION ITEM #1

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Chair – Kelly Crump

The (new) committee met and discussed:

- I. Increasing mare numbers
- II. plans for the 2022 ASHA Yearling Sale; dressing up the sales arena (requesting a budget), videos of the Yearlings and scheduling, Stallion videos, and having the videos to post at Century in between races, reducing the cost to the breeders entering Yearlings to the

sale, and more prizes for the Voucher Raffle. Noted a license is required for these raffles.

- III. splitting up the Stallion Directory and Stakes Guide into two separate publications for 2023.

John to investigate with AGLC and obtain a raffle license for the Yearling Sale Voucher. **ACTION ITEM #2**

- IV. that with the potential of increased funding, the committee would like to see the third leg of Stakes races added for 2- and 3-year-olds, and late closers reinstated for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- V. the possibility to add Stakes legs with Manitoba and BC.
- VI. fractional ownership; HRA is working on it.

Don encouraged more ideas and requested they are fleshed out and on paper to discuss further at the Board level.

b) **Owners Chair – Randy Smith**

Randy conveyed that with the addition of James and Storm, holding another Owners Appreciation day would be of interest, and John reminded Randy there are funds with HRA for such activity.

c) **Drivers/Trainers Chair – Nathan Sobey**

After meeting with the judges, there were plenty of changes implemented to show a better race card. Questions are still being asked about the passing lane with the electrical box as the main issue behind preventing immediate execution. The passing lane is part of the contract changes requested with Century Downs, as it has been part of many discussions yet still has not been completed.

Nathan reported the track conditions are still inconsistent; Fred recommended he hold a meeting with the new track manager along with Fred to assure the (track) conditions are maintained to a proper standard. The morale in the backstretch has improved.

d) **Awards Committee - Tim Lake (Awards Criteria)**

Tim presented the final draft of the awards criteria, with the recommendation that the criterium is reviewed regularly.

Motioned by Tim Lake and seconded by Nathan Sobey to accept the Awards Criteria as presented. Motion carried.

The breeders are to discuss the potential of adding an award such as Stallion of the Year. ACTION ITEM #3

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Update/Contract with “Track on 2”**

There are two contracts needing signatures; now that the Track on 2 is a racino, HRA needs a contract with them, and also ASHA will need to sign a contract with them for funds from the slots.

b) **Horse Population Initiative (H.P.I.)**

Horse Racing Alberta has been invoiced \$40,886, before the Ohio sale, with \$28,000 left in the budget for the initiative.

c) **May Horse Sale Ohio**

A total of seven horses were purchased by ASHA and will be transported to Alberta from the Ohio sale; two other individuals purchased from the Ohio sale to be part of the population initiative. After discussing the method to how it would be conducted, the board decided the seven horses would be sold online with two sales completed each day.

d) **Contract with Century**

Century and ASHA are in negotiation with the contract to be ready for signing by the end of July 2022.

e) **Mascot proposal**

Given the price tag for this idea, this idea was quickly nixed by the board. The money would be better spent on sponsoring Stakes.

f) **HRA request for Volunteers**

April of HRA requested volunteers from ASHA for the tradeshow in Leduc June 2-5. James Jungquist and Jocelyn have an interest in attending, and Neil put forth Bryan Brook's name, to be confirmed.

g) **Racing Days**

Nathan requested changes to the current race schedule from Tuesday/Saturday to Friday/Saturday. A discussion, including the reasoning and the potential to show how it may increase the handle, with Century should take place before deciding on the next meet.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Sobey and seconded by Kelly Crump at 9:12 p.m.
Next meeting to be scheduled after the AGM

ACTION ITEMS

New Items from May 14th, 2022

5. **RACING**

- c) Fred has yet to meet with Mike Vanin. **ACTION ITEM #1**

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a) III. John to investigate with AGLC and obtain a raffle license for the Yearling Sale Voucher.
ACTION ITEM #2

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- d) The breeders are to discuss the potential of adding an award such as Stallion of the Year.
ACTION ITEM #3

TABLED ITEMS from June 26th, 2021

(Minutes from June 26th, 2021)

1. **Jocelyn** - possible reviving of the Race Bike Insurance program (Status – tabled, pending more ideas).

REMINDER! - **All Committee Chairs** are requested to email their reports to Michelle Desjardins one (1) week before scheduled Board Meetings so they can be sent as one package to all members of the Board.

MOTIONS LOGBOOK