



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
for 20 Dec. 2019
held 2nd floor at Century Mile

In Attendance: Bill Andrew, Don McDougall, John Hind, , Harold Haining, Tim Lake, Kelly Crump, Rod Starkewski, and Dave Kelly. **Regrets:** Don McNeil, Nathan Sobey and Mike Hennessy. Also attending (no vote) Executive Director Fred Gillis, Administrative Assistant Michelle Desjardins.

Meeting called to order at 12:59 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA– Addition of the Mares Acquisition Program.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Tim Lake that the Agenda be approved.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on Oct 5th, 2019

Moved by Dave Kelly and seconded by Don McDougall that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of Oct 5th be approved.

Motion Carried

3. HRA UPDATE–**presented by John Hind** reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:

- a) An emergency meeting was conducted on December 19th to discuss regulatory issues and B-Track dates.
- b) The budget now seems under control, with a significant shortfall for 2020. With the very tight numbers, January may reveal an adjustment for March (harness) racing. Handles show that Harness side has an increase whereas the TB's show a decrease.
- c) John issues a letter on behalf of ASHA to address a review of the BIP to return the HRA allocation to previous splits. HRA may begin requesting more information surrounding our BIP allocation.

4. 2019 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind

The ASHA budget underspent in most areas, but any excess must go to the purse account. Fred and John are working on the 2020 budget.

b) Handle Report– Fred Gillis

As predicted, racing is running on fumes until the end of the meet, but on course to finish with nothing left to spare, which is why January numbers from the slots must be on target or better for the Spring meet. Fred explained some overages in the purses which led to the lack of carry over.

c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew

- After meeting with trainers and drivers, Bill would like to conduct meetings with the members to allow better transfer of information for the industry. Race days, the break, (allocation/splits) of purses, ownership groups, and the selling of our signal are just a few items raised from Bill's meeting with the backstretch on December 19th. The breeders would like to be included more for these meetings.
- Bill received a letter from the assistant Executive Director of HRA (April) requesting a split on the BIP, which will be turned over to Harold and the breeders committee to address, and also to John as he is requesting a review of the same for 2021.
- The final item which Bill addressed was HRA's 2019 marketing, which the ASHA board feels very strongly about. Bill suggested that HRA cancel their marketing and put that money into purses. John and Bill will draft and present a letter to HRA regarding this.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining (report submitted,)

Items discussed from the breeders committee:

- Proposed changes to the Alberta Foaled program, as there are not enough breaks for AB product, and too many loopholes for product coming from outside the province.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by John Hind that the Stakes program be changed as follows:

- 50% Alberta Sires Stakes
- 25% Alberta Owned (majority, as defined by HRA) and/or Alberta Foaled
- 25% Open

2 Yr. olds to start with this program in 2021, 2- and 3-year olds in 2022

Discussion continued and the motion was amended as follows:

Moved by Don McDougall and seconded by John Hind that the breakdown for the Stakes program would be :

- 50% Alberta Sires Stakes
- **25% Alberta Foaled**
- 25% Open

2 Yr. olds to start with this program in 2021, 2- and 3-year olds in 2022.

Motion Carried

- The 2020 Stakes Schedule was presented.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Rod Starkewski that the 2020 Stakes Schedule *dates* be approved as presented.

Motion Carried

Bill requested the Breeders committee accomplish two items

- 1. Determine the nomination payments for the stakes for the Alberta Foaled**
- 2. A residency program for the acquired mares (Other jurisdictions are 180 days/6 months) and develop a mare registry.**

A new sub committee consisting of Tim Lake, Don McDougall, and Harold Haining and Fred will work on the breakdown for the schedule on the actual stake races.

Harold continued with:

- The Track on 2 is willing to sponsor a stakes race at their facility.
- Harold requested a change of date for the 2020 ASHA Yearling Sale date from Sunday September 27th to Saturday September 26th at Century Mile, who was the only bid submitted to the committee, to allow for a bigger event

b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil (absent)

No report.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

- Track maintenance remains an ongoing issue; if snow is not removed immediately, which causes heaving on the track, and there is not yet enough top surface on the Century Mile track.
- The horsemen will be able to leave Century Mile and ship directly to Century Downs on January 23rd.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Social Media Update– Don McDougall

Don updated the Board on the future of the Social Media program; Storm Dafoe will be working for ASHA and Horse Racing Alberta financed through their marketing budget to promote the Harness side, and Julie Brewster will be working the Thoroughbred side.

b) Proposed AGM Date – April 4th

The date proposed for the 2020 Annual General Meeting is April 4th, which is approved by the Board.

c) ASHA Awards Night –

After discussion regarding if there should even be an awards night, the Board would like the ASHA Awards to be held in south Alberta once racing begins in March. John will work with Colleen to streamline the number of Awards issued.

d) Mares Acquisition Program

The Board determined they will attend the mixed sale for fillies and mares in February of 2020 in Ohio. HRA and Century continue to support this venture.

Next meeting date TBD.

Motion to adjourn at 3:07 pm