



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for January 12, 2019**

held at the Paddock Room, Century Downs Racetrack & Casino

In Attendance: Bill Andrew, Don McDougall, John Hind, Connie Kolthammer, Tim Lake, Don McNeil, Kelly Crump, Rod Starkewski, **Called in:** Nathan Sobey. Also, present Dave Kelly (interim Driver/Trainer Rep), Fred Gillis, Michelle Desjardins.
Regrets: Blair Corbeil and JF Gagne Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Bill moved the adoption of the Agenda, seconded by John. No changes to the agenda.

2. **Approval of Minutes held on Nov 24th, 2018-**

Moved by Kelly Crump and seconded by Don McDougall that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of November 24th be approved. **Motion Carried**

3. **HRA Update –John Hind**

John reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:

- HRA is unable to increase purses for 2019.
- Doug Fenske and HRA are creating a new Authorized Agent form for all breeds to provide consistency within the horse racing industry, as well as two-year Coggins testing.

4. **2018 Racing**

a) Financial Report 2018 –John Hind

- John presented the 2019 Budget for the Board's approval.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Don McNeil that the 2019 ASHA budget be approved. **Motion Carried**

- After meeting with Paul Ryneveld, Fred reported there were five changes to the pending contract, which upon final approval will conclude in 2022. This contract will replace ALL the contracts floating around regarding racing at Century Mile or Downs, with the option to extend for 3 years to 2025 and is active from (retroactively) January 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2022.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Don McDougal that the contract be adopted as presented. **Motion Carried**

- John also addressed the issue of members who wish to have their purse cheques couriered to them. The board agreed that the bookkeeper may do so, but it will be at the member's expense plus a \$10.00 service fee.

b) 2018 Handle Report– Fred Gillis

Century Downs was overspent by \$40 thousand. Fred will work more closely with the race secretary to avoid this for 2019. The year will be very tight but manageable. California has approved Sundays year-round to carry the live product for Alberta, which should increase the handle. Across the board, the handle at Century is up by 19%.

c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew

- Due to some recent negativity on a Social Media platform and also from a phone call Bill received from a journalist, Bill requested that the website feature the many positives happening in the industry to be penned by Bill and Fred. A paddock meeting is also to be conducted in the very near future.
- BC has a condition on their sheet for BC foaled, allowing an extra win on an allowance race. The board will consider a similar class for AB foaled.

5. **Committee Reports:**

a) Breeders Report – Connie Kolthammer

- Coggins will be mandatory once again for the Yearling Sale, with a negative test prior to arrival.

Moved by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by John Hind that yearlings entered to the ASHA Yearling Sale must have a negative Coggins test prior to sale date. **Motion Carried**

Moved by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by John Hind those Buyers who have had previous payment issues at the Yearling Sale must have a letter of credit from their bank, or cash. **Motion Carried**

Moved by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by Tim Lake that yearling will require insurance, purchased by the buyer, prior to exiting the building. **Motion TABLED pending Connie investigating insurance companies that can insure on site.**

- Although its not possible this year, and pending the BIP splits, there is a possibility that Sale Stakes will return. This will be tabled to a future meeting.
- Details were discussed pending attending and purchasing mares and fillies (only; no males) from the Blooded Sale in Ohio. Connie and Bill will be writing conditions for the sale, such as;
 - mares must be bred back to an AB Sire the following season.
 - Racing stock must remain in AB for the duration of the 2019 race season.

Moved by Connie Kolthammer and seconded by Tim Lake that broodmares and race stock purchased from the Ohio Sale must remain in Alberta for a minimum of 180 after the sale and mares must be bred back to an AB Sire. **Motion Carried**

Connie also brought up the notion, to be taken to HRA for support, that owners who bring in new broodmares to the province could receive a credit for breeding to an AB Sire. The board requested polling stallion owners to consider putting up a stallion breeding for raffle at the Mixed Sale, to be conducted two weeks after the Ohio Sale. Harold

Haining, Jamie Gray, and Bill Andrew will be attending the Ohio sale on the 10th of February. The sale is to be promoted on the ASHA Website and Social Media platforms, as well as on Standardbred Canada.

- The Breeders Committee brought their nomination forward for the Breeders Award.
- Connie also brought to the board for consideration adding a class to the condition sheet for AB foals to attract those with mares in foal to a non-AB stallion. The class has already been added to Don's revised condition sheet.
- The Breeders Committee is reminding the Board to add the Owners Bonus upon return of funding, although the request is to have a paid-out bonus twice a year as opposed to having it on the (race) card.
- The Breeders Committee also wants to assist with Marketing; Rod Hennessy is looking at radio spots, and Cliff Coonfer is investigating bussing tours (for seniors) from surrounding communities to bring people to the track on race days. John mentioned that HRA might be able to assist financially with this. They are cautioned by the board not to duplicate what is already happening with the radio spots.

b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil

- Don queried if the Snowflake series still worth continuing? As Century has committed to sponsoring at least half of the 2019 Snow series at the new Leduc track, a decision to continue will be tabled pending its conclusion in December 2019. The Series has been renamed the "Century Milers".
- The Conditions sheet was reviewed with positive feedback. Upon Jackson's return, it will be given to him. There are still some minor tweaks required. Upon final approval, it will be posted to the ASHA website, and circulated to the members of the ASHA.

Moved by Don McNeil and seconded by John Hind to adopt the revised condition sheet in principle.

Motion Carried

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –(interim) Dave Kelly

- The conditions sheet was a concern but addressed previously.
- The track conditions are better but remain inconsistent. Fred will again address the concerns to Jackson and Paul.
- The Drivers room still needs water hook up, which will happen after spring thaw. Fred is to follow up
- A request for an hour extra jog time was denied.
- The backstretch is requesting an update on the blacksmith shop, per the contract.

8) New Business

a) SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

The program is under review as it winds up for the season. The plan is to have one member remain as the team lead in the North and hire a new South member. Don plans to have other individuals, such as drivers, trainers, etc. featured for media interviews, as well as promoting specific On Track days, such as Packwood Grand, and the Mid Summer Classic. Work remains in progress for the websites for drivers and trainers. There are also continual plans to have those pages and other relevant features promoted on the track screens between races. Don hopes to have a live stream presentation for the AGM.

b) RACING 2019, Race Days, Stakes, Funding

The race days remain the same as 2018, and no changes to purses due to no extra money.

c) MARE ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Much of the details were previously discussed under the Breeders Report. The Ohio sale is on February 12th. Bill reviewed acceptable expenses for members of the Board to submit for reimbursement.

Connie Kolthammer motioned for adjournment of the meeting (3:53pm)

Next ASHA Board of Director meeting will be on Saturday March 16 at 5:00 pm.