



## **ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** **for 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**conducted via conference call 5:30 pm**

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

Meeting called to order at 5:36 pm

### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by** Don McDougall and seconded by Kelly Crump to approve the Agenda.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved by** Don McNeil and seconded by Kelly Crump that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be approved.

**Motion Carried**

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

- a) John has calculated two potential budgets depending on returning race dates and revenues pending start date for racing.
- b) The request for matching financial assistance from HRA was approved.
- c) HRA also approved additional operational funding for Century Casinos race tracks to remain open for training until racing resumes.
- d) An app is under development for a fantasy league for harness racing.
- e) The following new rulings from HRA were passed regarding harness racing:
  1. For a horse that tests positive on Class 1, 2 or 3 drug offences, horse **shall be** suspended for racing for 90 days,
  2. For any trainer who has a horse testing positive on Class 1, 2, or 3 drug offenses, all horses under said trainers care **shall be** suspended from racing until a hearing with the judges occurs.
  3. No Lasix will be administered to 2-year-olds.

These rulings will be effective 30 days from posting.

- f) A letter was received from ASHA and HPBA, addressing their concerns with the Appeals Tribunal, and the holding of purse money.

### **4. 2021 RACING**

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

ASHA's revenues and expenses are down due to the pandemic situation. The preliminary numbers indicate there is potential for a small surplus.

#### **b) Handle Report– Fred Gillis**

Currently there is surplus, but without racing a new budget for the purse pool will wait.

#### **c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew**

1. Bill addressed the previously mentioned letter regarding the tribunal; the quality of the judging also remains a concern.
2. He also commented that our help for our horseman is light when compared to BC or ON as their funding is obtained differently.
3. A letter was received from an HRA representative concerned on how assistance funds are allocated; the ASHA Board is satisfied with how they dealt with the allocation.

### **5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining**

1. The Breeders Committee discussed the Owners Bonus program.

**Moved by** Harold Haining and seconded by Kelly Crump that to be eligible for the Owners Bonus the horse MUST be Alberta sired AND foaled in Alberta, and the mare must pass a residency of 180 days.

**Motion Carried (two opposed)**

Noted that this cannot be implemented until such a time where there are funds available, possibly 2022.

2. The Board reviewed the pricing of advertising for the Yearling Sale Catalogue and the Stallion Directory.

**Moved by** Harold Haining and seconded by Kelly Crump that the pricing for both should be the same using the less expensive pricing level of the Yearling Sale Catalogue to attract more advertising. **Motion Carried.**

**b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil**

Owners want to know how much was paid to the trainers for the relief payment. There were questions as to why trainers were paid instead of the owners.

There may have been a scheduling conflict with racing; the WPCA had scheduled their Championships in August. Fred assured that Paul agreed to our dates with approval as well from HRA.

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

Where is Century at with the track expansion or the passing lane; Fred responded that they are looking into the passing lane. Expanding the track to a ¾ is not possible. Century has put out a proposal for a new track superintendent who should be able to address the banked turns.

**1. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Social Media Update– Don McDougall**

1. Storm Dafoe continues to work with HRA, having just completed an interview with Kelly Hoerd on his O'Brien Nomination.
2. Given the current pandemic situation, the AGM will probably be hosted through an online hosting company. Quotes have come back. Notably the voting aspect raises the cost of all the quotes.

**Moved by** John Hind and seconded by Don McNeil that the AGM shall be held on April 10<sup>th</sup> and Tall Girl Conferencing is to host. **Motion Carried**

Don McDougall, Fred Gillis, Kelly Crump are the members of the AGM committee to work with Tall Girl.

**b) 2021 ASHA Awards Night**

Tim Lake and Don McNeil are to assist with the planning, and it will look much like 2020 due to the current situation. People were recognized, and enjoyed the public recognition, stretch drive video, etc. Nominations are to proceed. More discussion for planning occurred.

**c) Owners Bonus (previously discussed)**

**d) Financial Aid to Horsemen (previously discussed, and approved)**

Payments could be deposited directly to the Horsemen's' Purse Accounts

**e) Stake Payments**

The Board agreed to let Fred work on a payment schedule and e-mail to the Board for approval to be posted to Standardbred Canada and our social media.

Next meeting date TBD.  
*Motion to adjourn at 6:52 pm*