



## **ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** **for 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Century Downs Racetrack and Casino**

**Attended:** Don McDougall, Jackson Wittup, John Hind, Harold Haining, Randy Smith, Nathan Sobey, Dave Kelly, Rod Starkewski. Attending via conference call: Neil Malloch, Jocelyn Giesbrecht. **Regrets:** Tim Lake. Also attending (no vote) Executive Director Fred Gillis, Administrative Assistant Michelle Desjardins.

Meeting called to order at 7:24 pm

### **1. ADDITIONS TO and APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a) **Single sports bets (J. Hind)**
- b) **Century Table Game Application**

**Moved by** Dave Kelly and seconded by Harold Haining that the agenda with additions be approved.

**Motion Carried**

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on May 1, 2021.**

A motion regarding the change of date to the Yearling Sale payment from the video meeting conducted May 24 was not included. **\*ACTION ITEM #1:** to obtain the motion to be included in a soon to be created motion book for future reference.

**Moved by** Randy Smith and seconded by Dave Kelly that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of May 1, 2021, be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**\*ACTION ITEM #2:** Don requested Michelle create a motion logbook for easier access to motions made, going forward.

### **3. HRA UPDATE–John Hind/Don McDougall:**

- a) With racing resuming, HRA has calmed down.
- b) HRA transferred funds to Track On 2 to supplement purses to race.
- c) HRA issued funds to the Track On 2 for the renovations/work ongoing for facility improvements.
- d) Funds were allocated although may not be used for Covid testing.
- e) Funds for the training centers were allocated for horsemen to prepare for racing upon its eventual return.
- f) John spoke of the new Chair of HRA, Diana McQueen.
- g) John recommended the ASHA Board begin looking for his replacement on the HRA board in Audit and Finance Committee as his term concludes in April 2024. The individual must have an accounting background, and it would preferred they have served on the (ASHA) Board of Directors for a minimum of 18 months.
- h) Don reported that the regulatory side of HRA is not as calm, with the changes to race day medications and to ship in times. He also recommended that board members of HRA physically meet with the track people.
- i) HRA is undergoing changes to show more accountability with better documentation and protocols.
- j) The indications are there but unofficial that the Racino at the Track On 2 is moving forward.

### **4. 2021 RACING**

- a) **Financial Report – John Hind**  
John reviewed the ASHA Financials with the Board. Due to applications made for subsidies from Federal Government through CEWS and CERS, ASHA remains in the black. The purse accounts will be assessed again for further funding for operations.
- b) **Handle Report– Fred Gillis**  
Fred reviewed the handle report indicating despite everything it is within budget. Purses are unlikely to be increased until 2022.
- c) **Presidents Report – Don McDougall**
  - i. Under social media, Don reported that Storm is developing a schedule for various profiles with video interviews.
  - ii. The Executive Committee met with no report at this time.

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

- a) **Breeders Report – Harold Haining**
  - i. Harold noted the inequality of breeds featured on the HRA Facebook page; currently only Thoroughbreds are shown, and no Standardbreds.
  - ii. The Breeders Committee is awaiting a decision from Century regarding sale entries requiring Coggins.

- iii. With sale entries closed there were 67 yearlings entered to the 2021 ASHA Yearling Sale and currently one withdrawn. Payment is due by close of business July 2nd for the remaining unpaid entries.
- b) Owners Committee – Randy Smith**
- i. The Owners committee discussed an Owners Appreciation Day and wish to communicate better with all the (Alberta) owners in the industry. Other ideas discussed in their committee were communicating through an owner survey, and owners’ seminar. As these ideas may require funding, John recommended getting in touch with (Brittany at) HRA. Funds may be available through the Sustainability Projects.
  - ii. Fractional ownership and potential change to membership was discussed.
  - iii. Jackson posed to the Board to consider publishing a circulate showing the break down of where funds come from and where they go when dealing with the betting machines and HPI betting.  
**\*ACTION ITEM #3:** Fred is to obtain information (from the sources) for the Board to create a document for publication on the breakdown of the betting funds.
- c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey**
- i. Nathan met with track personnel to discuss its overall condition and issues. With racing and funding resuming the track will have the funds to properly maintain its condition. New (used) machinery will be purchased for the maintenance crew. Renovations to the revised turn will proceed when the material arrives, which is currently on order. It’s believed it will not impede the race schedule, but contingencies have been placed just in case. Due to the movement of infield fixtures and other fixed items, work to the passing lane is scheduled for 2022.
  - ii. The new time of 10 am for ship-ins to be on the track is difficult for some of the horsemen. HRA wants to push for 7 am for 2022.
  - iii. The conditions sheet is better, but still requires more creativity from the Race secretary to assure the maximum number of entries are racing.
  - iv. Concern was raised regarding the Track On 2 Race Secretary with the inconsistent classes. **\*ACTION ITEM #4:** Fred to speak with the TKo2 Race Secretary.
- d) Structural Committee – Jackson Wittup**  
**\*ACTION ITEM #5:** All committee chairs are to email their reports to Michelle to be forwarded to the Board 1 week prior to Board Meetings.  
 The committee met to discuss ideas for the future such as codes of conduct, platforms for interested nominees for Directors positions, along with their roles and responsibilities, confidentiality documents for staff and board members.
- e) Awards Committee (Tim Lake – Absent)**  
 Reported by Don on Tim’s behalf that more clarification is required on the awards criteria and should be worked on sooner than later so it’s not a time crunch for the next awards.
- f) Promotions Committee – Dave Kelly**
- i. Dave is conversing with Storm to conduct more videos from alternate perspective such as from the race bikes, as well as possibly have drones follow the race.
  - ii. Fred added that Century staff (Karen Franco) will be photographing all drivers and trainers for current win photos.
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- a) Race Bike Insurance (Jocelyn)**  
 Due to lack of policing and integrity behind the program, the race bike insurance program was discontinued. As the program is funded only by ASHA and not underwritten by an insurance company, the funds were allocated to another area. **\*ACTION ITEM #6:** Jocelyn to present her findings of reviving the Race Bike Insurance program.
- b) Standardbred Canada’s response to Ownership of horses going to the Amish, Riding, etc.**  
 Owners selling horses outside of racing are to contact Linda Bedard at Standardbred Canada who will remove the ownership line and “declassify” the horse from racing. The Board is wishing USTA to follow suit to avoid issues of well-meaning individuals from contacting former owners who are “rescuing” horses from auction. HRA is investigating an All-Breeds Society with charitable status for all race retired horses to be managed through.
- c) Century Casinos application for Table Games**

The Board was informed there has been an application made to HRA by Century for table games under consideration. As it is still very early in the discussion and there are other factors involved, this was more for information with no action required at this time.

d) **Single Sports Bet Wagering**

There was preliminary discussion to inform the Board that Single Sports Bet Wagering could be implemented through the province of Alberta, which could increase funds.

Next meeting date TBD.  
*Motion to adjourn at 9:05 pm*

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**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Obtain the motion from the Board meeting conducted on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regarding the change of date to the Yearling Sale payment. **COMPLETED June 28th, 2021** (was included in the next BOD Meeting, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, with the incorrect second for the motion.)
2. Create a section in the ASHA Board of Directors Minute Book for *future* Motions. **COMPLETED June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**
3. Fred is to obtain information (from the sources) for the Board to create a document for publication on the breakdown of betting funds.
4. Fred to speak with Track On 2's race secretary for more consistent classes.
5. All committee chairs are to email their reports to Michelle to be forwarded to the Board 1 week prior to Board Meetings.
6. Jocelyn to present her findings in the interest reviving the Race Bike Insurance program