



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for 26th 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. (Amended)

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

Motion Carried

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.

3. 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 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.

4. 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 Breeder's 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.
- 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. Contingencies have been placed if the renovation may impede the race schedule. Due to the movement of infield fixtures, 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.
- d) **Structural Committee – Jackson Wittup**
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 for more concise rules before 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, and the possibility of drones following the race.
 - ii. Fred added that Century staff (Karen Franco) will be photographing all drivers and trainers for current win photos.

1. 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. Jocelyn is requesting and researching this be reconsidered and will present her findings in an upcoming Board meeting.
- 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 working with USTA to follow suit to avoid issues of well-meaning individuals who are “rescuing” horses from auction from contacting former owners. 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.
- d) **Single Sports Bet Wagering**
There was preliminary discussion to inform the Board that Single Sports Bet Wagering is under consideration.

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