



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for 22 June 2020**

held at Century Downs Casino, Balzac AB

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Don McNeil and seconded by Kelly Crump to approve the Agenda for the meeting of June 22, 2020.

Motion Carried

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on Mar 19th, 2020 via conference call

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Nathan Sobey that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of May 19th , 2020 be approved.

Motion Carried

3. HRA UPDATE–John Hind

- a) No official (HRA Budget) report as it cannot be discussed in any way until the pending official Government of Alberta press release.
- b) A regulatory report is also pending as its pending approval.
- c) The Board of HRA chose two new members, due to the passing of one member, and the other whose term was up, although again, names cannot be mentioned until officially released to the public.

4. 2020 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind

- The (ASHA) budget will require recasting due to COVID, but the financials were presented with the known figures and explanations from John.
- As a non-profit, ASHA was eligible for the Canadian Wage Subsidy program due to loss of revenues and may continue to be eligible until revenues return.
- Items to note that will require adjustment and review; the Mixed Sale which took a huge loss, the WCPD which has been cancelled (and other similar allocations), the HRA learning program which we no longer contribute to.

b) Handle Report– Fred Gillis

- Fred anticipated a loss for the handle report but due to the cancellation of half of the Track on 2's race card due to inclement weather of June 14th there is the potential of extra races sometime in the future.
- Simulcast revenues are obviously behind with hopes of picking up as more racing is added, although currently there is less operational, which means less funds to the horsemen. Currently, and as we wait for word from the government, there is almost no funds for Stakes. Premier Jason Kenney's presence for 4 hours in the rain at the Track on 2 for the reduced race card (eventually rained out) and his genuine interest showed some positive vibes for the industry. It also helped to discover his family has connections to the industry, and there is discussion for a match race on a non race day.

c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew

- With the race schedule based on money from HRA, nothing will be concrete until the official announcement and hope for good news. The Breeders committee was asked and will present later in the meeting a Stakes Schedule presented base on specific criteria.
- HRA wants input from the horsemen about race day drenching (tubing) the horses; two concerns raised were the ship-ins and that it would be difficult to enforce. A letter from the Board will follow up to HRA.
- Postponed events such as the AGM and the Awards presentations will be discussed further in the meeting.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining

- Due to the current pandemic and its affect on the Stakes Schedule, Harold presented suggestions from the Breeders Committee on potential options.

The following was presented:

Breeders Committee		YES	NO	ABST.
1.	Cancel Super Final Consolations (THIS YEAR ONLY)	6	4	
If majority votes yes:				
A	Divide consolation money between 2 yr. old ABSS ONLY			
B	Divide consolation money between 3 yr. old ABSS ONLY			
C	Divide Consolation money into overnight purses ONLY			
D	Divide consolation money into 2 & 3 yr. old ABSS ONLY	6		3
E	Divide consolation money into 2 & 3 yr. old ABSS, and overnights	1		
2.	Cut stake entry fees by the same percentage as we are cutting the stakes purses	6	4	
3.	Go with divisions for all 2 and 3-year-old ABSS and make Super Finals the only Final	6	2	2
4.	Stakes season ends in Calgary, NO stakes after October, NONE at Century Mile	2	6	2
5.	Reduce the "big open stakes" to 75 or 80 thousand dollars (WCPD, DBM, GIRM, RKM)	8	1	1

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Nathan Sobey to accept the Breeders Committee Stakes Schedule Voting Proposal as presented to the Board.

After the Board weighed in, the results were as follows :

Board of Directors		YES	NO
1.	Cancel Super Final Consolations (THIS YEAR ONLY)*		9
2.	Cut starting entry fees by the same percentage as we are cutting the stakes purses	8	1
3.	Go with divisions for all 2 and 3-year-old ABSS and make Super Finals the only Final	1	8
4.	Stakes season ends in Calgary, NO stakes after October, NONE at Century Mile	2	6
5.	Reduce the "big open stakes" to 75 or 80 thousand dollars (WCPD, DBM, GIRM, RKM) if required	7	2

The board decided:

1. Super Finals Consolations remain
2. Starting fees may be cut by the same percentage as the (BIP money) cuts to the purses.
3. Leave it the way it is - 2-year-old divisions & 3-year-old divisions, eliminations, and finals, though there may be only 2 week of eliminations.
4. Stakes Season will end at Century Mile
5. Reduce the big stakes down to \$75 or \$ 80 thousand dollars if required.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Nathan Sobey to accept the revised proposed revisions to the stakes.

Motion Carried

Members were reminded that the schedule is far from set in stone until the money is known and that will not be until the end of June at the earliest. Bill suggested the Shirley McClellan be moved north for this year as well.

Fred posed to the Board that if the funds are not there, are they willing to drop a leg of the ABSS to just two instead of three. The board would consider it idea if funding is inadequate.

- Harold also provided some input from the Breeders Committee for Stakes purse allocations which remains up in the air until funds are know.

b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil

- Little to report on , as all the owners remain in the pandemic holding pattern.
- Concerns continue regarding the conditions of (Century Downs) track surface.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

- The track has improved with Ron Grift maintaining, and with the copious amounts of rain received.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Social Media Update– Don McDougall

The Social Media program continues with Storm Dafoe and Don intends on working on better communication to the industry. Don in looking into conducting a Handicap Clinic

b) AGM

With the AGM on pause due to social distancing restrictions, Bill formed a Committee (Kelly Crump, Don McDougall, and Don McNeil) to investigate how to proceed and present to the board at the soonest opportunity.

c) ASHA Awards Night

With the ASHA Awards on pause due to social distancing restrictions, (though suggestions were made on how to present) Bill formed a Committee (Tim Lake, John Hind and Nathan Sobey) to recommend how to proceed and present to the board at the soonest opportunity.

d) Finalized Stakes Schedule

Tabled until funds are known; Mike Hennessy, Dave Kelly, Harold Haining and Bill Andrew with input from Fred Gillis will review and present to the board once the funds are known.

e) From Conference Call conducted June 11th, 2020:

Motioned by Dave Kelly and seconded by Mike Hennessy that due to lack of current funding, the race cards at Century Downs Racetrack and Casino would be reduced from 10 to 9 races instead of reducing the purses or race days.

Motion Carried

f) ASHA Yearling Sale, Sept 26th, 2020

This will be held in the backstretch of Century Downs, but details are still unknown due to the current situation. The Breeders Committee is investigating possibilities with Century Downs.

Next meeting date TBD.
Motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm