



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2019

held at Board Room, Century Downs Racetrack & Casino

In Attendance: Bill Andrew, Don McDougall, John Hind, Blair Corbeil, 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:** Connie Kolthammer and JF Gagne
Meeting called to order at 1:09 pm

1. **Approval of Agenda** – additions 1) discussion on WCB. (Workers Compensation Board)
2) discussion regarding changing age of trainer's license.

2. **Approval of Minutes held on Jan 12th, 2019-**

Moved by Don McDougall and seconded by Tim Lake that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of January 12th be approved. **Motion Carried**

3. **HRA Update –Blair Corbeil**

Blair reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:

- Rules for Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds were adopted. Standardbreds are requesting to accept the (new) Canadian wide rules.
- The make up of the (HRA) board was discussed, results pending the upcoming election. RFP's are out for the 7 public board positions.
- Century Mile is having their (soft) opening on April 1st, for the casino. The Grand Opening of the racetrack happens on the 27th of April 2019.
- Due to the Stronach Group deciding not to allow any medication at (California) tracks on race day, as a result of the deaths of 26 horses at Santa Anita (cause still unknown). It is anticipated that this will eventually flow down to all racehorses universally.
- A decision was reached regarding the purse account.
- Slot revenues have increased over last year with noticeable increases at Grands Prairie and Lethbridge.
- Don McNeil queried about any resolution regarding the issues with the judges; HRA is currently assuring all judges have proper training and accreditation. The horsemen wish to have the issues of accountability addressed. Bill requested the horsemen (with Fred) draft a letter to HRA with their concerns.
- By May 17th, the ASHA representative for the HRA Board must be designated. Blair recommended that John be that representative due to the financial considerations. Bill will prepare a letter for May 16th with this recommendation.

4. **2018 Racing**

- a) Financial Report 2018 –John Hind

No report as the year end financials are currently a work in progress although they should be ready before the AGM.

- b) 2018 Handle Report– Fred Gillis

Even with losing one day, we are still projected to be over by \$60 thousand. If one more day is lost, then it will be close to budget. Simulcast was down in January, but February increased, and March is projecting another increase. Century (Mile) is guaranteeing a minimum of \$40 thousand for the late closer series, but more if the slots surpass projections. There was concern raised that there are tele theatres in the North that are not displaying the signal. There will be follow up if it is observed that there are no bets coming in from the Northern Tele-theatres.

- c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew

- Reminder to the Board that the AGM is April 20th at Century Downs after the races. The list of Board positions up for election is on the AGM notice.
- Allocation of the stables for Century Downs has been a concern, more for those coming from out of province. Bill recommended creating a procedure for the Race Secretary. The procedure will include preference to those who stay and support the race meet, and then stall will be allocated based on a first come first serve basis.
- The Quarter Horse Association is requesting a letter of support or formal agreement from the Harness Industry to have the splits tweaked allowing their industry 5% of the (foreign) simulcast. As the QH industry has been very supportive of the Harness Industry, Bill will follow up with a discussion with the QH's and a letter of support and will further review.

5. **Committee Reports:**

- a) Breeders Report – Bill Andrew for Connie Kolthammer (absent)

- Clarification was required for the condition regarding AB foaled to Ab Sired.

Moved by Don McNeil and seconded by Don McDougall that the overnight bonus is paid to AB foaled instead of the AB Sired on the conditions sheet. **Motion Carried**

- The 4-H program still requires a second weanling for one of the two participants of this years 4-H Standardbred Yearling Project.
- b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil
- The new conditions sheet has had feedback, both good and bad. Standardbred Canada is negotiating with Track Master.
 - Don will be conducting another “owners committee” meeting shortly.
- c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –(interim) Dave Kelly
- The track conditions are still inconsistent. The posted schedule is not being followed.
 - Century has begun to crack down on parking in allocated areas, with exception for those with mobility issues. Trailers are to be parked outside the East (stabling) gate on the North side of the entrance road.
- 8) **New Business**
- a) **SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE – Don McDougall**
 Don is in the process of hiring a new team for the new race season.
 He is working on agreements with Rogers Media, as well as promotions with the Stampeders and the Flames.
 Kelly Crump presented information on a workshop on Social Media, to educate any interested member on how to better understand and utilize Social Media to build their business, which can also be streamed. The board discussed and agreed to offer it for \$40 a person, with the seminar to be held sometime in May or June.
- Moved by** Kelly Crump and seconded by John Hind to conduct this social media workshop for \$40 a person. **Motion Carried**
- b) **RACING 2019**
 Fred attended the funding meeting; overall, the harness race industry did not suffer any significant losses at the meeting.
- c) **MARE ACQUISITION PROGRAM**
 This year’s sale was better than last, but due to exchange rate and the more expensive, but more comfortable shipping arrangements for the horses the expenses were higher. The horses purchased were better papered and sold better. HRA and Century were happy with the final numbers. The activity will be explored again, but maybe better for a fall sale.
- d) **RETENTION BARN**
 Stabling need is greater; retention barns will come into affect as earlier stated for Stakes races at \$50 thousand or more. Retention barns will be enforced at Century Mile for the big stakes.
- e) **10 WIDE GATE**
 Century Mile will be racing with a gate that starts ten wide. A revision of the Stakes Finals may be required.
- Moved by** Blair Corbeil and seconded Kelly Crump that for Century Mile all horses are on the gate at ten wide for all Stakes Finals. (Notification will be required) **Motion Carried**
- The winners of eliminations (for both Century Mile and Century Downs) of the big stakes of \$50 thousand or more will draw their post position for the finals. The remainder are drawn by lot.
- f) **AWARDS CRITERIA**
 Rod Starkewski, Kelly Crump, Dave Kelly, and Tim Lake joined together to form the awards criteria committee, to clarify and finalize the criteria for future awards, with the criteria to be posted on the ASHA website upon approval. The criteria list should be completed in three or four months (end of August, at the latest)
- g) **UPDATE ON WCB**
 With HRA moving forward on checking for the WCB clearance letters, everyone needs to reapply for the letters stating if they do, or do not require the WCB. Colleen (Haining) is helping as a clerk on behalf of the WCB to assist the membership with the process. WCB must be updated annually.
- h) **DRIVER/TRAINER LICENSE**
 Youth wanting their trainers license must wait until they are 18, and then must hold it for two years before applying for their Drivers. It is the only jurisdiction in Canada where 18, whereas all others are 16.
- Moved by** Dave Kelly and seconded by Don McDougall to change the ruling to be consistent with the rest of Canada, to allow application for trainer to be 16, and driver to 18. **Motion Carried**
- A letter of recommendation will go to regulatory at HRA and be decided in the fall.
- i) **LATE STALLION APPLICATION**
 Due to circumstances beyond his control, Walter Moroz missed the deadline to register his stallion SIXDAYSONTHEROAD. As he is only wanting to breed his own mares, he is requesting the board allow him to register his stallion. The board agreed, with the late payment of \$500.

John Hind motioned for adjournment of the meeting (3:45 pm)