



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for 27th March 2021**

conducted via conference call 6:30 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 5:35 pm

1. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Addition of review of mares' residency program.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES held on January 28, 2021.

Moved by Don McDougall and seconded by Rod Starkewski that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of January 28, 2021, be approved. **Motion Carried**

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

- a) The budget of HRA has been recast due to race date changes, with a reduction in purses if racing is closed for another month.
- b) HRA would like to invest more towards after care of racehorses; they would consider assisting the Performance Standardbreds to achieve registered charity status.
- c) The HRA Board Chair retired Dec 31. Final approval to take place in April.
- d) With enough funds and government approval, HRA is working on spectator-less racing before the racinos open for racing one day a week for 4 weeks.
- e) Sports betting has gone through a second reading and appears to be moving forward. Legal support advises concerns were addressed and is off to committee. AGLC and HRA is considering teaming up to provide Sports Betting in casinos and tele theatres in Alberta which in turn should increase the handle.
- f) The purse support committee will review the purse inequities in the fall for the 2022 allocation.
- g) The sustainability committee is working on a Horse Racing Fantasy Stable App. with Standardbred Canada.
- h) HRA Regulatory implemented new directive (184-2021) (All horses entered to race must be on the race grounds by 10:00 am on race days (all breeds, no exception).
- i) New track judges were hired.
- j) MLA's and Track on 2 are working on obtaining a racino license; application should be with AGLC later in April.
- k) Alternate sources of revenue are under investigation.
- l) Century Group prefers that Standardbreds stay in Balzac and Thoroughbred stay in Leduc due to cost; the proposal remains under review with factors to consider.

4. 2021 RACING

a) Financial Report – John Hind

John presented the Audited Financials in Draft for approval prior to the AGM.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Don McNeil that the Board approve the 2020 Financials as presented.

Motion Carried

b) Handle Report– Fred Gillis

Due to cancellation of race days, simulcast money has been carried over; HRA approved the use of some of the funds for stimulus money for the horsemen. It was decided by the board to withhold the remainder for start up racing expenditures. A small reduction in purses is anticipated.

c) Presidents Report – Bill Andrew

1. Bill met with the government on behalf of ASHA over the previous two weeks; a decision may be given on Thursday April 1 after hearing from the government, Chief Medical Officer, and AHS. Fred provided a backstretch tour to U.C.P. MLA Leela Aheer to aid the government in their decision. Once racing does begin, Paul Ryneveld has requested Tuesday as race day as there is little competition for the signal meaning better return for the handle.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Breeders Report – Harold Haining

Due to the change to the race schedule, Harold recommended revising the Sire Stakes payment schedule.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Don McDougall the following revision:

1. The three-year-old Sustaining payment to the Alberta Sires Stakes #39 due April 15th will now be moved to due May 15th.
2. The two-year-old Sustaining payment to the Alberta Sires Stakes #40 due April 15th will now be due June 15th.
3. The Yearling Nomination payment to the Alberta Sires Stakes #41 due April 15th will now be due June 15th .

Motion Carried

Fred is to follow up with Standardbred Canada first thing in the morning; upon confirmation it will be posted to the website/Social Media.

b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil

The owners have been very quiet. Fred proposed and the Board agreed that they will allocate funds of about \$50 a per racing horses to be issued to assist with expenses to the owners.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

Dave Kelly inquired on Nathan behalf about the passing lane and changes to the track; as the funds become available the plan is to adjust the track to a 5/8th track, bank the turn, making the stretch longer.

1. NEW BUSINESS

a) Social Media Update– Don McDougall

Storm completed an interview with Fred, but without racing there is not much to report. More will follow.

b) 2021 AGM

The Board agreed to meet with Tall Girl for a dry run of the AGM Tuesday April 6th at 6 PM. Planning for the AGM continues.

-Don also requested that once racing returns, the claiming rule will not apply until a horse has at least two starts, as opposed to a straight two weeks as not all classes will fill, or all horses entered.

c) ASHA Awards -Tim Lake

The data has been collected for the judges list and it was agreed the way the awards were held through the pandemic worked well.

d) Financial Aid to Horsemen

Funds, hay, and oats have been supplied to the horsemen on the backstretch; further allocation is on hold until we know the pending decision for racing.

e) Replacement for HRA representative

Tabled to next meeting after the AGM for the new Board.

Next meeting date TBD.
Motion to adjourn at 6:46 pm