



## **ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes** **for May 25, 2019**

**held at Board Room, Century Downs Racetrack & Casino**

**In Attendance:** Bill Andrew, Don McDougall, John Hind, Harold Haining, Tim Lake, Don McNeil, Kelly Crump, Rod Starkewski, Nathan Sobey, Mike Hennessy, and Dave Kelly. Also attending (no vote) Executive Director Fred Gillis, Administrative Assistant Michelle Desjardins. Meeting called to order at 5:39 pm

1. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**– Fred requested the addition of phone call discussion with Standardbred Canada.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** held on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Moved by** Kelly Crump and seconded by John Hind that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of March 16<sup>th</sup> be approved. **Motion Carried**

### 3. **Standardbred Canada – Fred Gillis**

- SC is conducting again this year the National Caretakers day; all tracks are to feature and promote the caretakers in the industry with videos and promotional items. Colleen is following up with Kathy Wade Vlaar.
  - All horses (all breeds) will be microchipped by 2021 with preference to inject a specific location in the neck.
  - Quebec instated a new whipping rule directing drivers to use a wrist only action to apply the whip, government mandated. Quebec drivers have signed on and agree to implement the new rule.
  - SC is closer to implementing Track Master to aid tracks /race secretaries with conditions. A date for a seminar might be scheduled for drivers and trainers to watch and ask questions.
4. **HRA UPDATE–John Hind** reported the following from HRA from the last meeting:
- Having reviewed the 2018 financials, due to shortfalls and restricted revenues there will be no purse increases.
  - March numbers reveal a shortfall, due to February cold weather factoring heavily on the results. With the two tracks fully operating, HRA anticipates the numbers to be closer to budget.
  - The handle was down due to Northlands closing, and for the bettors to relocate to other OTB's, which according to the numbers has now happened.
  - HRA is reviewing the request to change the age for the Trainers' license from 18 to 16 to match other jurisdictions.
  - The new HRA marketing initiative is out but needs tweaking to picture Standardbreds on tracks where they are featured.
  - The 2020 purse draft was not yet ready for meeting, due to the change of CFO
  - The new Executive Director Kent Verlik is diligently working with Track On 2 to comply with the request for slots. John spoke with Kent, informing him what racing at Lacombe means to the Harness community.
  - John is speaking with the public members of the HRA board to get to know and educate them on the Harness Industry
  - The new CFO is reviewing his portfolio and how funds are allocated.
  - John was asked about the regulatory, particularity regarding the judges, particularly their job descriptions and reviews.

### 5. **2019 RACING**

#### a) **Financial Report 2018 –John Hind**

John reviewed the columns of the report for the new members and additionally CREG since they may be asked about the progress. The budget is currently on track, and under budget in many areas.

#### b) **2019 Handle Report– Fred Gillis**

For the first time in eleven years we raced without know the money due to the changes at HRA, atypical to the norm. The handle is currently overspent, but should make it back for stakes season, providing the number of races is consistent. There is no carry over available for next year. Fred will be meeting with the new CFO (Ron Gregg) to discuss purse allocation.

#### c) **Presidents Report – Bill Andrew**

- On May 21st Bill met with operations management (Track On 2), for reassurance that Standardbreds will race in August. The facility has applied for an REC. Site plans of Lacombe include a convention center. The track man of Northlands assures the track readiness for the August dates.

- Bill met with the Alberta Quarter Horse Association to review their industry concerns; racing across the Canadian border is more attractive due to higher purses.
- On June 12th, Bill and Fred met with HRBC in Kelowna to discuss working together with the AB Foaled/AB Sired Stakes conditions, and with other stakes issues.

#### 6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### a) **Breeders Report – Harold Haining (report submitted)**

- Harold reported that the preview night is mandatory for consignors, encouraging them to have refreshments, set up like a hospitality booth and make it a special event. Other ideas included a silent auction, a stallion auction, and posting the night live, depending on help.
- In conjunction with an Owners Booth for the Mid Summer Classic, Harold reported the breeders committee would like more people (owners) to sell tickets for the Yearling Voucher.
- The Breeders Committee would like to create a Sale Committee to assist with the running of the yearling sale.
- Consignors should meet with the auctioneers prior to the sale, discussing highlights of their yearlings. The Auctioneers need to bid up reserves, instead of dropping the hammer when the reserve is achieved. The auctioneers also need to take more time on yearlings that warrant more time.
- The breeders committee asked about larger field sizes; it will be considered after a few races are contested at Century Mile to assure safety is addressed.
- Breeders are requested to assist with (stake) blanket presentations.
- The Breeders Committee requested an update on the Social Media.
- Ongoing items the committee would like the to remain open are: Sales Stake, Mares Incentive, Mare's Bonus increase, or add a category for Mares Bonus Alberta Foaled to attempt to attract more mares to the province, Four-Year-Old stakes, and Owners (Star) Bonus. Bill recommended the Breeders bring back a motion to the Board Meeting to add a category for the Alberta Foaled Mares Bonus. Harold, Kelly and Nathan formed a committee to review Mares Bonus.
- Harold presented dates for future Breeders Committee meetings.

##### b) **Owners Committee – Don McNeil**

- The new conditions sheet has been officially withdrawn due to lack of support from the race secretary and drivers. Don hopes to move forward with Track Master and Standardbred Canada.
- Discussion followed on attracting new owners.

##### c) **Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey**

- Drivers request usage of the Thoroughbreds shower trailer until the new trailers are hooked up, particularly when the track is sloppy. John will follow up with Paul to make this happen.
- The tent barns require proper foundation as they flood, and many of the horses are standing in water. John added this to items for discussion with Paul, as well as an eye wash station.
- Century Downs has plans to expand both the track and grandstand.

#### 8) **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) **Social Media Update– Don McDougall** has had discussion with a Social Media expert who will take over the social media platforms for the same cost as the 4 SM members last year. It's a project that could envelope all racing breeds in Alberta. With approval, Storm, will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

**Moved by** Don McDougall and seconded by Dave Kelly to hire Dafoe Group to manage the social media sites for the same cost as last year. **Motion Carried**

Fred was approached by Jeff Robillard who wishes to write an article around the Mid Summer classic. The Board would like the young new drivers featured.

- b) **Awards Criteria** - Tim Lake presented the first draft of the awards criteria. It remains a work in progress. The Board was reminded that any positive test nulls eligibility for both the horse and individual who tests positive.
- c) **Expense Forms** For the new members of the board, the expense form was reviewed.

Next meeting scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup> at Century Downs.  
*Motion to adjourn by Mike Hennessy at 8:07 pm*