



ASHA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **for Oct 5, 2019**

held 2nd floor at the Track on 2, Lacombe

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

Prior to calling the meeting to order, upon the request of Kelly Crump, Kurt Belich presented to the Board the intended plans for future development of the Track on 2, pending approvals. He addressed questions, as well as the pros and cons from the past race dates. Meeting called to order at 3:43 pm

1. **REVIEW OF AGENDA**– Addition of change of signing officers for Leduc.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** held on July 27th, 2019

Moved by Nathan Sobey and seconded by Dave Kelly that with no errors or omissions noted, minutes of the meeting of July 27th be approved. **Motion Carried**

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

a) The draft (HRA) budget is out and does not hold any more promise than the previous year. There will be no purse increase for 2020 and the BIP shall remain the same. John is requesting a review.

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Don McDougall that a letter is drafted from ASHA requesting HRA review the BIP. **Motion Carried**

b) The marketing program portraying only Thoroughbreds on AB billboards was a plan approved from 2015. The Board felt this was not money well spent. Going forward, the marketing plan might not receive approval from the Harness side should it resemble the 2019 campaign. Don McDougall inquired about the marketing plan and funding behind it, which John informed the board the plan was to bring awareness to the Edmonton region that although Northlands closed, there *IS* racing at Century Mile.

c) The new drug and alcohol policy became effective September 1, 2019.

d) Due to the wording of the contract, the handle allocation cannot be changed until 2022.

4. **2019 RACING**

a) **Financial Report – John Hind**

In the report presented, the Yearling Sale lost money this year due to fewer entries with the same expenses. The rest of the ASHA budget is under, but ASHA must remain frugal.

b) **Handle Report– Fred Gillis**

After Super Finals, race dates change slightly at the Mile to Friday and Sunday nights at 7:15 and no Saturdays. Fred presented the handle report, that the shortfall is significant. The board agreed that it's hard on the young horses (2-year olds) to run 4 eliminations for late closures, but more realistic to run only two eliminations.

Motioned by Nathan Sobey and seconded by John Hind to reduce the purses by 10% across the board as of Friday October 11th which might allow a possibility to run more races. **Motion Carried**

c) **Presidents Report – Bill Andrew**

Bill is working on dates with HRA, and the tracks are attempting to acquire more slots. A new condition sheet is pending, and open for review later in the meeting. The Breeders Committee has items for review including items for the Yearling Sale for the future. John also added that HRA is working on a database of contacts (horsemen who know MLA's) so that when an issue arises, they can contact the right person to enable quicker resolution.

5. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Points from the report:

- The Breeders Committee is in favour of more discussion working with BC and with Kelly McMillian to have a Sire Stakes program where Alberta Stallion owners can nominate their foals to be eligible to BC Stakes. Ultimately, assuring the two provinces work together and not run their stakes programs on the same dates.
- Now that dates have been established, the committee will review for the Stakes Schedule.
- To aid breeders, the committee propose that the first two O/S/F stakes (Shirley McLellan Breeders and the Brad Gunn Breeders) are changed to just "foaled" in Alberta. Further discussion revealed that this would

affect those who have current young stock purchased for these races, would now be ineligible. Bill recommended deferring until 2021 for 2-year olds to protect those who have already horses eligible for those stakes.

Moved by Harold Haining and seconded by Don McNeil that the 3-year-old stake races known as the Shirley McLellan Breeders and the Brad Gunn Breeders will be changed from “Owned/Sired/Foaled” to just “Foaled” as of 2021. **Motion Carried**

- The committee is investigating a new venue as close to the track as possible, especially with a preview night and racing occurring within hours. Also discussed was the date of the sale, and past discussion have indicated that the best date for the sale is early September for three reasons
 1. to be before the “big” sales (Lexington, Harrisburg, etc.),
 2. before the Yearlings get too big, and difficult to break for the new owner
 3. they “hair up” and don’t show as nicely later in the year.
- The committee would be in favour of reducing (purses) of all stake races by 7% in 2020, although this may be adjusted if sponsors can be found for the stake races. Stake sponsors will need to be known before the Stakes Guide is published.

b) Owners Committee – Don McNeil

- Don requested an update on Track Master, which has progressed to legal process.

c) Drivers/Trainers Chair –Nathan Sobey

- No report other than discussion of the new condition sheet, which will come under New Business.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Social Media Update– Don McDougall

There are three meetings coming up with HRA, Storm Dafoe’s group and Social Media to discuss better marketing options. Don will follow up with an e-mail to the board with the findings. John requested Don question them if there were measurable results from their marketing plans? Don will follow up with a report.

b) Race Dates Meeting – Fred Gillis

The proposed race calendar was presented and discussed.

Moved by Nathan Sobey and seconded by David Kelly that the proposed calendar of race dates be approved.

Motion Carried

c) New Proposed Condition Sheet – Fred Gillis

The proposed condition sheet was presented and discussed.

Moved by Don McNeil and seconded by Nathan Sobey that the proposed condition sheet be approved.

Motion Carried

Bill recommended a paddock meeting to address both the change in race dates and conditions sheet.

d) Changing Stake Format

Discussed previously under Breeders Report

e) Racing Surface Improvement at Century Downs

Paul Ryneveld will consider changing the surface at Century Downs to replicate the same surface at Century Mile. Ronnie Grift has recommended how the changes are to be made. The track expansion for Century Downs is planned for next year.

f) New Owner Initiative, fractional Ownership, hosting night at C/M

The board discussed ideas on hosting a night where trainers would be on the apron to answer questions to potential owners. Anthony McDonald (knowledgeable on fractional ownership) has stated he would be willing to attend this initiative.

g) Change of Signing Officers, Leduc

Moved by John Hind and seconded by Tim Lake to remove Kevin Schell and instate Josh Murphy as signing authority on the Horseman's Purse Account for Century Mile Racetrack and Casino, Leduc (Account ending 0964 - full account number provided in the copy motion to the bank)

h) Getting HRA and/or Century to Monitor Trainers with plus .400 UDRS

Moved by Kelly Crump and seconded by Mike Hennessy that there is retention for all eliminations, not just finals.

Motion Carried

Next meeting date TBD.

Motion to adjourn at 5:47 pm