

Minutes from January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 board meeting at Holiday Inn & Suites Des Moines Northwest

The meeting started at 12:00 pm. Board members in attendance were Jim Reese, Scott Smith, Tony Paris, Cory Larson, Larry Mather, Duane Roland, Joel McDanel, Mike Telfer, & Jeff Carey.

The minutes from the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were passed out and reviewed for approval. Joel McDanel made a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Mather seconded the motion, All ayes. The minutes were approved.

The treasurers report was given by Jim Reese. Duane Roland made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Joel McDanel seconded the motion. All ayes. Treasurers report is approved.

Election of Officers for the 2024 year. Joel McDanel made a motion to leave all the officers as they were at the end of 2023. Scott Smith seconded the motion. All Ayes. All officers stay the same. They are as follows:

Jeff Carey – President

Tony Paris – Vice President

Jim Reese – Treasurer

Mike Telfer – Secretary

Joel brought up the vote that was taken at the annual meeting for the At-Large board members. There was a lengthy discussion about how to do the vote. The discussion was tabled until a later date.

Committee Assignments are as follows:

Legislative: Duane Roland, Jim Reese & Mike Telfer

Officials/Racing/Drug Testing: Tony Paris, Scott Smith, Cory Larson, and Dana Meyer

Promotions: Tony Paris, Dana Meyer, and Mike Telfer

Hall of Fame: Joel McDanel, Duane Roland, Dana Meyer, and Jeff Carey

By-Laws: Jim Reese, Larry Mather & Mike Telfer

Finance Committee: Cory Larson, Jim Reese & Mike Telfer

Racing Issues is the next item of business:

The schedule for 2024 is as follows:

May 26:	Sunday	What Cheer
June 1:	Saturday	Humboldt
June 8:	Saturday	West Liberty
June 12-13:	Wednesday/Thursday	Eldon
June 22:	Saturday	Nashua
June 23:	Sunday	What Cheer
June 29:	Saturday	What Cheer
June 30:	Sunday	What Cheer
July 4-5:	Thursday/Friday	Humboldt

July 12-13-14:	Friday/Saturday/Sunday	What Cheer
July 17:	Wednesday	Bloomfield
July 18:	Thursday	Monticello
July 21:	Sunday	Kahoka, MO
July 27:	Saturday	Oskaloosa
July 28:	Sunday	Oskaloosa
August 3-4	Saturday/Sunday	Humboldt
Aug 10-11	Saturday/Sunday	Humboldt
Aug 17-18:	Saturday/Sunday	What Cheer
Aug 24-25:	Saturday/Sunday	What Cheer
Aug 31-Sept 1:	Saturday/Sunday	What Cheer
Sept 7-8:	Saturday/Sunday	What Cheer
Sept 14-15	Saturday/Sunday	Humboldt
Sept 21-22:	Saturday/Sunday	Humboldt
Sept 28:	Saturday	Eldon
Oct 5:	Saturday	Humboldt

The 1<sup>st</sup> 2 race dates will be charted.

The FFA races will be on all overnight race days.

The Iowa Sired races will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at What Cheer, July 27<sup>th</sup> at Oskaloosa, and October 5<sup>th</sup> in Humboldt.

Duane Roland made a motion to approve the schedule. Tony Paris seconded the motion. All ayes. The schedule is set for 2024.

The aged races will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> in West Liberty, on June 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> in Eldon, June 30<sup>th</sup> at What Cheer, July 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> in What Cheer, July 28<sup>th</sup> in Oskaloosa, August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> in Humboldt, August 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> in What Cheer, August 31<sup>st</sup> & September 1<sup>st</sup> in What Cheer and September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> In Humboldt.

Scott Smith made a motion to approve the aged scheduled race dates. Cory Larson seconded the motion. All ayes. They are set as written.

These are the officials for the 2024 season that have been named: Lyle Miller in the start truck. Starters are Lesa Peters, Mike McDanel, and Brian Larson (in training). Charters are Kim Larson and Brenda Hopp. Judges are Mike Morales, Leesa Peters, and Lorenza Gooch. Clerks are Connie Roland and Ginny Mintun. These are subject to change until the next board meeting.

Track maintenance was discussed. The tracks in What Cheer and Humboldt need the surfaces maintained thru-out the season. Discussion about adding product or blading it, etc was discussed. The board would like someone on the board to take the initiative to maintain the track for race days being able to do what needs to be done, ex: grading it, product added, etc.

The board put the racing issues on hold so Matt Eide could give his Legislative report.

The American Cream draft horse was voted as the official horse of the State of Iowa by the Iowa Senate. The thoroughbred people are coming with a new amendment to change the date on a proposed bill. The proposed bill date is the 31<sup>st</sup> of January and the thoroughbreds are thinking about the 15<sup>th</sup> of January. The bill is about inspection date when horses must come into the state by

Then they went back to the racing issues. The board then decided that the Iowa Legislative day at the races is scheduled for July 13 during the What Cheer fair.

Next they discussed the starting gate commercial liability insurance. Mike Telfer reached out to 3 different groups where he found one that will do the same as we have with better coverage on some things. They are finalizing this and sending it back to Mike. When he gets it he will bring it to the board and get their approval. The quote is \$1,211.70 per year with much better coverage. Last year it was more than 3 thousand dollars for this same coverage. When this gets done, Mike talked about getting a quote from them for the general liability insurance policy we have.

The next item was the post parade being spread out way too long. It was mentioned that maybe the time of the start on each race, would be a hard start. In otherwards, make sure you are on the track at the proper time and be ready to get to the start truck. They discussed this and decided that it should be on the judge to make the decision on speeding up the post parade and getting the race started on time.

Next thing on the list is the Iowa Sired Association.. It was discussed while doing the schedule for this year. The board agreed that they will keep the cap the same as last year.

Next there was an update of the Iowa Horseman's Foundation. The board members are Steve Shelangoski, Brad Khowles, Dana Peterson, and Mark Holtan, Earl Mckay.

The horse study being done in Iowa should have the results released by the late spring or early summer of 2024. The board discussed who they want to be representing the standardbred horses. The board decided that Duane Roland will be the chairman for this. He will be the contact person for IaHHA. After this study is completed, Duane Roland and or Mike Telfer will need to go the Prairie Meadows, to hopefully be able to get the payout money refigured so standardbred horses get more % of this, from Prairie Meadows. Right now, Thoroughbreds get 77%, Quarterhorses get 15.25% and Standardbred 8.75%. This will be an ongoing subject that standardbred people will contribute our side of this. Ultimately this will go to the legislative people after the study is complete, and then with them being able to change the law regarding this, then we can go to Prairie Meadows and ask for more money.

Next item is the reassignment of Roger & Judy's duties they currently do.

Mike Telfer has a list of the duties that Roger and Judy did by month. He wants to make sure all the items are covered moving forward.

Nominations will be done by Dana Meyer.

Connie Roland has agreed to write the purse checks as she was doing last year. She has agreed to take all the entry fee checks and deposit them, and to make sure there is enough money in the purse account. She will pay the officials but will not do the bookwork of paying the officials. She will need to get an account opened as the "Purse Account".

Track Licenses need to be done in March.

Finance Committee report: They came up with 14 recommendation points

IHHA Finance Committee Recommendations

1. Have 3 Accounts (General, Starting Gate and PAC or General, Purse Account and PAC) depending on what we decide with the starting gate insurance issue.

2. Increase entry fees \$ 25 for A races and \$ 5 for B races.
3. Increase B race purses to \$2,250. A races would be raised next year.
4. Prorate entry fees on rainout make-ups.
5. Go to an 8-horse field if there are three divisions in the same age and sex.
6. Have contracts for each worker and have them approved by the board each year.
7. Give the person doing nominations \$1500 like Roger and Judy got.
8. Increase the daily fair expense to \$1750 per day.
9. Apply for a USTA grant for video productions again.
10. Lower the video ad price to sell more ads and have a winning circle sponsor.
11. Do not use USTA fine money to pay for the hospitality room at the banquet.
12. Have an earlier deadline for ordering trophies, banquet food, etc. to save money.
13. Keep the line item money set aside for the Humboldt barns (\$25,000) in the budget for 2025 and possibly use that money to pay for a new starting gate. This money will continue to be line itemed until the starting gate is paid off. Joel McDanel agreed to collect data for what the cost would be for a new one.
14. Possibly enact a distance rule for A races – 3 times goes to the B class. Or it could be the Judge's responsibility

The contracts for the next 2 years have been sent out. Dana Meyer signed her part and Mike Telfer will sign his. They did not increase the rates for these 2 years as was previously discussed between Troy at the hotel and Mike.

All these points were up for discussion and to be voted on. They were all put in the preliminary budget proposal.

Duane Roland made a motion that the 'A' races going for \$7,000, and the "B" races go for \$2,000, and entry fee for the "A" races is \$125 and the "B" race entry fee is \$30.00. Larry Mather seconded the motion. 7 board members voted yes. 1 member voted no. The motion passed.

Entry fees prorated was discussed. Duane Roland made a motion that rain out entry fees will be prorated by an equal percent on remaining races on the schedule. Mike Telfer seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Cory Larson made a motion that if there are 3 divisions in the same age and sex in the feature "A" races then an 8-horse field will be carded. Mike Telfer seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mike Telfer made a motion to raise the daily fair expense to \$1750 per day. Duane Roland seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Video production grant is the next item to discuss from the finance committee. Tony Paris says that the USTA wants to see our numbers for this last year. We had 20 total complete broadcasts at 3 different locations for stake races, 12 different weekends, 4 rainouts, 6507 views, 792.8 hours watched, and 75100 impressions. Tony was going to put the format together and send it to all board members with how much we are going to ask for, and what our broadcast was for the \$5,000 we got from the USTA to Dan Leary by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Duane Roland then made a motion to approve the budget. Tony Paris seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried. The budget is approved.

Next item brought up was the horse study. Matt Eide messaged Mike Telfer to suggest maybe someone could make a PowerPoint presentation for the horse study as a part of the interview process. The PowerPoint is to promote ourselves to the interviewers.

Other finance issues:

Tony Paris & Mike Telfer are going to setup the YouTube prices.

Cory Larson made a motion that we go to a 4 day draw for the Iowa Registered and Iowa Sired races. Joel McDanel seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

The races on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> will be charted. No other charting will be done until the 1<sup>st</sup> Iowa Sired race on June 29<sup>th</sup>. June 23<sup>rd</sup> will be the last day of racing of 5 horse fields for 2-year-olds.

Cory Larson made a motion that the purse minimum is \$500 for the 2-year-olds when they are 5 horse fields no matter how many splits. Larry Mather seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

Tony Paris made a motion to raise the membership fee from \$15 to \$30 for 2025 going forward. Larry Mather seconded the motion. 5 board members voted yes. 3 members voted against the motion. The motion passed.

The banquet date for 2024 was set for Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The next board meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup> (moved to the 21<sup>st</sup>). Any other board meeting will be conference calls if possible.

Duane Roland made a motion to match the amount that people stabled at Eldon pay, for the cost of limestone on the small back track at Eldon up to \$750. Cory Larson seconded the motion. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Larry Mather made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Telfer seconded the motion. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 pm.