

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

January 27th, 2008

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 11:40 am on January 27th, 2008 at the Best Western Inn in Ankeny, Iowa. All directors were present. Also present were Jeff Carey, Brandon Jenson, Becky Roland, Brad and Amy Kohlwes.

Directors reviewed the tentative minutes to the previous meeting. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jenson, to approve the minutes as read. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. The annual meeting cost around \$1,000. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Scott Smith to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes.**

The next item on the agenda was the election of officers.

President – Royal Roland nominated by Larry Jenson, seconded by Scott Smith

Rick Mishler nominated by Mark Holtan – Rick declined the nomination

Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Bob Kohlwes to keep the same officers as 2007. All Ayes.

Becky and Amy presented their proposal to do the draws and also presented a bid to do the circuit book. They proposed pushing the draw time back to 5:30 to allow Amy more travel time with the same entry box of 8-4 by fax or e-mail and 12-4 by phone.

Bid breakdown

USTA Charges \$900

Labor \$11,500 (\$500/draw, up from \$350/draw in 2007)

Photocopies Est. \$8,550 (\$0.05/page)

They also requested the laHHA to purchase a laser printer to save on ink costs.

The circuit book was also discussed. The current funding is at \$850. Their proposal was for \$1,223, including postage to 300 people in that amount. The board discussed numerous complaints about people not receiving books in the past. There also seemed to be post time errors that had been wrong for a number of years. **Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Scott Smith, to refer this to the promotion committee. All ayes.**

The board discussed committee assignments for 2008, including member volunteers.

Legislative / Contract – Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Rick Mishler, Bob Kohlwes

Promotion – Mark Holtan, Scott Smith, Ginny Mintun, Mary Lou Lawless, Lesa Peters

Scholarship (suspended) – Mark Holtan, Bill Mintun

By-Laws – Jim Reese, Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Kim Van Otterloo (if needed?)

Officials – Scott Smith, Jack Wilkening, Garry Phillips, Mike Smith, Curtis Carey

Membership Communication – Bob Kohlwes, Jim Reese, Debbie Phillip, Mary Ann Phillips, Lesa Peters

Awards / Hall of Fame – Larry Jenson, Jack Wilkening, Mary Lou Lawless, Kevin Bender, Mary Hauser

Promotion Committee

Mark said that Ginny is requesting ½ year compensation for work done in 2007 but did not provide any documentation on what she had done. He believed she did 3 articles for the magazine and a few articles for Humboldt and Bedford, but he wasn't certain.

Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jenson, to pay Ginny \$1,000 for work done in 2007,

Ayes – Mark Holtan, Larry Jenson, Rick Mishler, Bob Kohlwes

Nays – Dan Roland, Scott Smith, Jack Wilkening, Jim Reese, Royal Roland

The majority of the board felt that some documentation of services done should be presented prior to payment and is willing to reconsider the motion upon presentation of that documentation. It was also noted that a job description was created for the position in the spring of 2007 and presented to Ginny.

The Promotion Committee is exploring advertising to fund posters, cards, brochures and are going to try to get them done by the Iowa Horse Fair.

Officials Committee

Jim Newman is going to be the starter in 2008. We still need a driver for the car or set of drivers. It was suggested to approach Jim Johnson to see if he would be interested in doing at least some of them. Herb and Garry have approached Scott with a proposal to have Herb judge all the races. The USTA has approved the announcer being an associate judge at the same time. Ron Banks will be available to announce almost anywhere needed. Dan Moy and Kevin Finn are also available to judge some locations. In general the board was not enthused with the idea of depending on a single judge for the entire season with no backups. That has caused problems in the past with other positions.

Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Rick Mishler, to have two USTA licensed judges at the stakes races.

Aye – Larry Jenson, Bob Kohlwes, Rick Mishler, Scott Smith, Dan Roland

Nay – Jim Reese, Mark Holtan, Jack Wilkening

Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Rick Mishler, to defer to the Officials Committee to create an assignment schedule for the charter, judges, starter, drivers and announcers for the summer schedule. All ayes.

Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Mark Holtan, to chart the same locations as last year. All Ayes

Osky fair, Sioux Center, Humboldt and What Cheer after the State Fair with a flat fee of \$150 to chart with no expenses. Photo finish is \$100 if alone and \$75 with charting.

The board discussed the expenses related to maintaining the old starting gates and their lack of use. **Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to give the old gate to the Sioux Trotting Association.**

Scholarship Committee

The scholarships were funded with advertising money prior to 2007, but no one took care of selling the advertisements last year.

Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Rick Mishler, to continue the scholarship program.

Aye – Mark Holtan, Larry Jenson, Scott Smith

Nay – Dan Roland, Jim Reese, Jack Wilkening, Rick Mishler, Bob Kohlwes

The board discussed a request from the Iowa Sire Stakes Association for funding for an additional fair race to be held at Central City or West Liberty. **Motion by Mark Holtan (no second), to not have any IaHHA funding of Sire Stakes races.**

Legislative Committee

Matt presented the legislative update. Horse Day at the Capitol will be February 19th. The Department of Ag is going to distribute buttons. Plan is to leave BTI at 11:00 to be at the capitol by 11:30 the same as last year. Notification will go in with the nomination forms and the web site.

Rick Olson's bill is going to be an amendment to SF348 and if passed will have to go back to the senate. Matt thinks it will be very hard to pass. Delores Mertz's bill hasn't been scheduled for a committee vote yet. The first funnel is the first week of March.

There are three filing dates for PACs in election years. Bob and Dan will help Royal with getting the reports filed.

The board discussed ways to improve participation in the PAC. Discussed having a signed enrollment form for deducting the \$50 from the winners of stakes races to save them having to bring the check back.

By-Law Committee

The board briefly discussed a proposal to change the director districts and board composition. It was noted that proposed changes need to be submitted in writing to the by-law committee. The committee shall then present the proposed amendment to the board of directors for consideration. If a majority of the board of directors votes to present the proposed amendment to the membership then it is required to give 30 days written notice of a vote and 2/3rds of the active membership must vote in favor to pass.

Membership Communication Committee

Bob is going to contact his committee members to start work on setting up phone trees and distribution channels. Some of the board members discredited views posted on the blog by anonymous posters.

Awards/Hall of Fame

They would like an account with money in it to pay for the awards. Some directors questioned the need to set up a new account for a once a year expenditure.

2008 Schedule

Prairie Meadows days of the week and post times will be the same as 2007. West Liberty is still tentative (90% sure).

Sioux Center is not happy with losing their races the week before the stakes meet. It was discussed that some members are not happy with the conditions being written to fit certain stables and exclude others. It was also noted there is not very good attendance or advertising.

Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Larry Jenson, to race at Sioux Center on Friday, July 25th.

Aye – Larry Jenson, Mark Holtan, Jack Wilkening, Bob Kohlwes, Rick Mishler

Nay – Dan Roland, Scott Smith, Jim Reese

Discussion of the rainout policy was deferred to the April meeting to make sure the non-profit is approved.

The board discussed funding of the Central City, Bloomfield and West Liberty. It was agreed Central City made drastic improvements in their track and gets a great crowd. Their June meet will be a \$500 purse early meet. Bloomfield still has \$8,000 of fair improvement grants they have not spent on anything related to horse racing.

Bloomfield same as last year (\$3,500)

Central City full funding for fixing the track

West Liberty – They pay \$2,000 plus furnish a tractor for track maintenance

The board discussed dividing of divisions and entries without a real resolution for any changes.

Motion by Jack Wilkening, seconded by Rick Mishler, to raise the nominations for the Aged Iowa races to be the same as the colt stakes.

Aye – Rick Mishler, Jack Wilkening, Scott Smith

Nay – Dan Roland, Larry Jenson, Mark Holtan, Bob Kohlwes, Jim Reese

Rick Mishler had to leave the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Motion by Jim Reese, seconded by Jack Wilkening, to not pay any fair breeders awards.

Aye – Jim Reese, Jack Wilkening

Nay – Dan Roland, Larry Jenson, Bob Kohlwes, Mark Holtan, Scott Smith

Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Dan Roland to vote on the breeders award motion passed at the annual meeting.

Aye – Jim Reese, Larry Jenson, Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Bob Kohlwes

Nay – Jack Wilkening, Scott Smith

The board discussed the standardization of overnight conditions. It was agreed that they needed to be standardized, but there was debate on whether to create a class for three year olds or lump them in the open split by life earnings.

Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Jim Reese, to standardize overnight conditions as Open T and P, 3yo T and P, 2yo T and P with entries split by lifetime earnings.

Aye – Mark Holtan, Larry Jenson, Bob Kohlwes, Jim Reese, Jack Wilkening

Nay – Dan Roland, Scott Smith

During the discussion of drug testing it was agreed to draw blood on all winners and collect as many urine samples as possible.

Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to approve the budget as amended to remove audit and scholarship, adjust the draw expenses and raise the drug testing. All ayes.

Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Mark Holtan, to make the tentative schedule official with the noted changes. All Ayes.

The board reviewed the independent audit performed by Anderson, Larkin & Co. of Ottumwa. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Mark Holtan to accept the external audit. All Ayes** Members can contact Royal's office to receive a copy of the audit.

The board had a discussion of the potential tasks of an Executive Secretary position. It was agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting.

The board set the following schedule for 2008 board meetings.

April 20th @ – Ankeny

July 4th @ Humboldt
Sept. 27th @ Prairie Meadows
Nov. 22nd @ Ankeny

The final discussion of the meeting was regarding the licensing status of Will Roland. He is suspended by the Iowa Racing Commission for one year. TC Lane of the USTA told Mark Holtan that the USTA would honor that suspension but had not notified Will he was suspended. It was generally agreed that if he was suspended by the USTA then he could not be an owner, trainer or driver at the fairs. Mark said there is also a USTA rule that says if a husband is suspended then the wife is suspended as well.

There was significant debate on what activities he should be allowed to participate in if he is in fact suspended or if he can even be on the grounds during the races. Royal agreed to work with Will to get some documentation from the USTA on exactly what his status is. Jim Reese, as the probable judge at the What Cheer early meet is going to contact TC Lane for input on what activities are prohibited while suspended.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.