

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

April 22nd, 2007

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 2:00 pm on January 28th, 2007 at the Best Western Inn in Ankeny, Iowa. Directors present were Mark Holtan, Bob Kohlwes, Jack Wilkening, Rick Mishler, Royal Roland, Scott Smith, Jim Reese and Dan Roland. Absent was Larry Jensen.

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

Matt gave the legislative update. Rick Olsen has a deal with Rep. McCarthy to hold our bill and not allow a vote. They are doing the same thing to Prairie Meadows' bill. Royal has met with the management of Prairie Meadows regarding their bill. Matt is looking for Senate bills we may be able to amend our language to.

The board discussed the PAC and agreed to continue with the requested \$50 contribution for each win in a feature colt stakes race.

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. The association has about \$72,000 in addition to the purses that were pre-paid for 2007 in 2006. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jack Wilkening to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes.**

Royal reviewed the 2007 stakes nominations. There were about 10-12 less than in February and most of those were two year old trotters. It was agreed that members are responsible for providing their Iowa Registered number.

The board reviewed the drug testing policy. The board discussed the issue of fining versus a disqualification because of a positive test. It costs \$125 for a test to see if there are any drugs and then another \$250 test to find out what the drug is if the first test says something is there. It was agreed we need to switch to urine instead of blood. Urine is less sensitive to time and temperature. There will still be the 1 hour time frame to draw blood for blood gas testing. The NW in 2007 races will not be tested. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve the amended drug testing policy. All Ayes.**

Royal announced that he had been informed that there would be no races at Kahoka this year. There was a conflict between the fair board and the people raising money for the races.

Rick announced that he had been informed that the Clay County fair had signed a contract with the World of Outlaws sprint car series and would be converting their track to 3/8ths of a mile. It was agreed that we would not hold colt stakes races on a 3/8ths of a mile track. Rick said the fair board was discussing building a new 1/2 mile track in the parking lot north of the current track for the horse racing, rodeo and tractor pulls. If done this would not be complete in 2007. The board agreed to have a day of overnight and aged Iowa races in a show of good faith for 2007 but future dates could be dependent on construction of the new track. A conference call will be held later to figure out what to do with the Spencer races after input from the membership and time for reflection.

Garry Phillips has agreed to be the starter for 2007. Jim will be going to Ohio to pick up the starting gate in early May. Contracts have been signed for all the judges and announcers. The only exception is Sioux Center early meet needs to see if John Harmelink can judge and if Conrad Rapp can start since they moved their race date to overlap the Eldon races.

The board discussed charting for 2007. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to chart at the Oskaloosa fair, Sioux Center, Humboldt (Aug. 18th & 25th), What Cheer (Sept. 1,2) and wherever the Spencer races are moved to.**

**Aye – Scott Smith, Bob Kohlwes, Jack Wilkening, Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Rick Mishler
Nay – Jim Reese**

Royal mentioned that Minnesota had decided not to purchase the starting gate from us. The Missouri horsemen had said they were interested if Minnesota did not take it. The board discussed the actual worth of the car and how the original \$1,200 price had been set for Minnesota. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Scott Smith, to offer the Sioux Center gate to the Missouri State Fair for \$2,000 as is / where is.**

**Aye – Scott Smith, Bob Kohlwes, Jack Wilkening, Dan Roland, Mark Holtan, Rick Mishler
Nay – Jim Reese**

The board discussed the Points of Emphasis document used in 2006 and agreed it was helpful, especially in curbing excessive whipping. The judges reports being published were also helpful to make the full membership more aware of what's going on. The judges committee will schedule another conference call with the 2007 judges to review the 2006 document and make changes where appropriate prior to the first races.

The promotion committee presented a draft job description for the Promotion Assistant position. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Promotion Assistant was responsible for articles being published, but was not required to be the author on each and every piece put out. Outside resources could be used when needed. It was also emphasized that there needed to be more legislators at the races in 2007.

The board discussed the policy implemented in 2006 to only pay ½ to officials in the case of rainout. There was a very strong negative reaction to the policy from the officials. A number of board members felt it was a cost of doing business and that if those officials had taken the time to be there then they should be compensated in full. The board agreed to pay the full amount in 2007.

The circuit book has been sent to the publishers and should be out shortly. The board discussed the lack of change by some fairs in updating their overnight conditions to reflect both the higher money won as funding has increased and the fact that there are just as many trotters stakes now as pacers. Some days of overnight races seem to be little more than paid training miles for the local stables. Others thought it was a perk for doing the work to put on a race meet. It was agreed to discuss the issue at future meetings prior to 2008.

The scholarship committee announced that there would be advertising sold in the programs to support the scholarship fund. \$200 will get a ½ page ad at all races for the year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.