

IaHHA Board Meeting  
Sunday, November 22, 2015  
Ankeny, Iowa  
1:00 P.M.

Present: Royal Roland, Jim Reese, Mark Holtan, Joel McDanel, Scott Smith, Jeff Carey, Brad Kohlwes, Dan Roland, Lindsay Sponheim

Absent: Rick Huffman

The regularly scheduled meeting of the IaHHA was called to order by President Royal Roland at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, November 22, 2015 at the Best Western in Ankeny Iowa.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Lindsay Sponheim. Jeff Carey made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and it was seconded by Scott Smith. Motion received all ayes, and was carried and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jim Reese. Mark Holtan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Dan Roland. Motion received all ayes, and was carried and approved.

Breeder's Awards have been calculated and are ready to be given to those receiving them. The board discussed what to do about the breeder's awards for the Non-winners race from July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 that America's Game had won since the board came to a consensus at the last meeting to move up the 2-6 place finishers to 1-5. The amount of extra money to pay the mare and sire awards for the second place finisher was figured at \$121.50. Dan Roland made a motion to pay the breeders awards for the second place horse, Billy Bob Brawn, in the Non-winner's race from July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and was seconded by Jeff Carey. Motion received all ayes, and was carried and approved.

Board members debated over how to handle the situation with America's Game's second stakes payment, which has not been cashed, and how to handle the horse being staked to the Iowa Program next spring. Joel McDanel suggested that the nomination check be sent back to Glen Wilson with a letter stating that he owes the IaHHA \$675 which was the amount America's Game received for winning the Non-Winner's race on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Also, until this amount is reimbursed to the IaHHA Glen Wilson will not be allowed to stake/nominate any horses to the Iowa Program. Jeff Carey agreed that this was the best way to handle the situation. After some discussion the decision of the board was to send Glen Wilson's check back with a letter detailing that his nomination/stake payments would not be accepted until the \$675 was returned to the IaHHA.

Royal Roland reiterated to the board that Prairie Meadows revenue was slightly down this last year which in turn will make the amount of money the IaHHA receives from them in 2016 slightly less.

Joel McDanel nominated Wayne Plowman for the 2016 Living Inductee to the Hall of Fame. He is the only native Iowan to drive in the Little Brown Jug and also had some of the first Iowa Colts Stakes

Champions. Dan Roland seconded this nomination. There 7 ayes and 1 nays, the nomination was approved.

A new slogan for the 2016 racing season was chosen by the board and it will be "Fun in the Fast Lane." This slogan will be used on our promotional items next season. New items for next year will be ball caps and hooded sweatshirts. There will be new t-shirts, koozies, along with a few other promotional items. The next newsletter is almost complete and will be sent out sometime in December.

There is not much going on with legislation at this moment. Royal Roland informed the board that Prairie Meadows has signed a contract with the Thoroughbreds to pay purses through 2019. This insures that there will be Thoroughbred racing through 2019. Royal reminded the board that we all need to remember to be diligent with our legislators and build relationships with them to keep racing alive in Iowa.

The IaHHA scholarship applications have been placed on the website and are due December 11<sup>th</sup>. After the due date a copy of each application will be mailed to the Iowa Harness Racing Non-Profit board members who will decide on the winners.

Scott Smith updated the board that everything is in order for the officials for 2016. The only thing to consider is more communication with the Sioux Trotting Association on who will be announcing and judging during the races from Sioux Center.

The board is currently looking for a time to meet with Renee Novak and her team at Iowa State University to go through and discuss the testing process and procedures for the IaHHA. It was suggested that the board meeting in January be held in Ames so this would be possible. Discussion on NSAID declaration, the taking a horse on/off NSAID's on race day, testing procedures, etc. were on topic and will be discussed further at the annual meeting.

Joel McDanel proposed a By-Law change at the January board meeting when officers are being elected that the three man executive committee be reinstated. There will be more discussion on this at the annual meeting.

The budget for the 2016 racing season is expected to be \$140,000 short. This is due to the increasing number of Iowa horses next year which will create more Iowa Registered divisions and 6-7 more Iowa Sired Races. Suggestions included but not limited to cutting one Iowa Registered Race Meet, increasing revenue by increasing entry fees, and cutting overnight purses. The board agreed to come up with possible scenarios for cutting the budget and present them to the membership at the annual meeting.

The 2016 Annual Meeting is currently being planned. Mark Holtan suggested having someone at the meeting to teach people how to use the USTA's online entry system. Royal Roland said he would talk to the USTA about sending someone to our meeting for this. Dr. Philip Kapraun DVM is going to be contacted about the possibility of being the Keynote Speaker for the evening. The decision was not to provide a hospitality room this year, and instead to have drinks and snacks in the meeting room to promote attendance at the meetings. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Adventureland Inn and

will be released two weeks prior to the event, so members are encouraged to book early to receive the group rate.

The Sioux Trotting Association contacted the board to request \$500 from the IaHHA to fund a study about possible moving the fairgrounds in Sioux Center since there has been interest from Dordt College in purchasing the current fairgrounds. Brad Kohlwes made a motion to fund the study, but no one seconded the motion so the motions was denied.

Deb Leach from the Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Association contacted Royal Roland about the IaHHA assisting in the funding of a commercial about horse racing in Iowa. They are currently asking for \$10,000 for the commercial. Discussion included how much the Harness Horse would be included in the commercial and if it would even benefit the IaHHA. The board decided to give no money to the ITBOA and concentrate on using social media to promote harness racing in Iowa.

Mark Holtan would like to limit the number of races held in one day. He mentioned that having 19 or 20 races in one day is too many and needs to be cut back. Joel suggested the possibility of having the "B" or Non-Winner's races on a different day than the "A" or Feature races. Scott Smith suggested that this could create more "A" races. Dan proposed that this idea could be tried a few times next season. Jeff Carey suggested eliminating the B/Non-Winner's races for the three year olds after the Sioux Center meet next year. More discussion of this will be held at a later date.

The Association of Iowa Fairs Meetings are scheduled for December 11-13, 2015 at the Airport Holiday Inn Conference Center in Des Moines. The IaHHA Business Meeting is to be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in room 398. A tentative schedule will be worked on at this meeting along with discussion of the races at our Iowa locations. The board was informed that the Louisa County Fair Board in Columbus Junction enjoyed having harness racing return and looked forward to possibly having more race dates next year if possible.

The next meeting of the IaHHA board will be on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Adventureland Inn in Altoona for the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.