

# IaHHA Board Meeting

## Tentative Minutes

January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The IaHHA Board of Directors met at 1:00 pm on January 28th, 2007 at the Best Western Inn in Ankeny, Iowa. Directors present were Mark Holtan, Bob Kohlwes, Jack Wilkening, Rick Mishler, Larry Jenson, Royal Roland, Scott Smith, Jim Reese and Dan Roland. Also present was Duane Roland.

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

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. There are around 200 members in the organization. **Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Bob Kohlwes to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes.**

**Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Bob Kohlwes to keep the same officers as 2006. All Ayes.**

The Promotion Committee discussed the ongoing research into a \$10,000 pick-10 backed by an insurance policy as a way of drawing more fans. It was discussed whether members should be eligible to win and where the line should be drawn. Tabled to the next meeting.

The board discussed the promotion coordinators position. It was agreed the most important task was to get legislators to attend the races. **Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Scott Smith, to have the Promotions committee create an official job description for the Promotions Coordinator prior to the April board meeting to clarify duties and priorities. All Aye.**

Lobbyist Matt Eide presented the legislative update. We currently have two bills ready to filed in the House, one by Delores Mertz and one by Tom Schueller. We need members to contact their representatives to get co-signers to the Schueller bill. The House switchboard is (515)281-3221 and the Senate switchboard is (515)281-3371.

Matt said that Prairie Meadows' primary focus right now was on trying to eliminate the slots referendum. The lobbyists for the thoroughbreds and quarter horses have told Matt they are not opposed to the fair money being in the 11% even though Rick Olson has expressed opposition to it. They emphasized that Rick does not represent the organization, but Matt is not sure where they will be when the time comes.

The board agreed to do a "Visit The Capitol" day alone as just harness people this year. The visit will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> with more details to come.

PAC contributions from the annual meeting were down this year from \$5-6k to \$2,300. Almost half the money from last year was raised at the meeting. The link on the website will be changed to go to the State Of Iowa web site where our public disclosure reports are filed. The board agreed to continue the check-off on the feature stakes races. **Anyone who wants to contribute to the PAC can send a check made out to...**

**IaHHA PAC**  
**Jim Reese, Treasurer**  
**2185 272nd Dr**  
**Bedford, IA 50833**

Research is continuing on trying to get our pari-mutual license back for the fairs. Work has started on putting specifics in a proposal on how it would work to present to the racing commission. This is a long-term project that would not happen prior to 2008 if at all.

Royal discussed the initial 2007 contract meeting with Derron. It was agreed previously that they would convert the track in 2007. A number of ideas were discussed to help push more of the Prairie Meadows purse money to Iowa Owned or Registered horses. Duane showed Derron a flyer he got at Prairie Meadows describing some sire stakes races they have for thoroughbreds with the t'bred association adding money back. Derron agreed to look into it and consider doing the same for the harness meet if the Sire Stakes association contributed some money and provided a list of eligible horses.

It was also discussed that Prairie Meadows is intending to race Friday / Saturday / Monday / Tuesday. The board preferred to race Friday – Monday. Discussions will continue after Derron consults with Prairie Meadows management.

Scott Smith presented the Officials committee report. Garry Phillips has expressed interest in being the starter. The issue of training horses and starting or judging was discussed at great length. It was agreed Garry could train horses as long as they did not start where he was the starter. He is going to decide in the next few weeks. The good starting gate is in Ohio being serviced and rebuilt. Jim Newman is going to pick it up in April.

Royal mentioned that the Minnesota starting gate was vandalized at the Cannon Falls fairgrounds. **Motion by Rick Mishler, seconded by Jack Wilkening, to offer to sell the MHHA the starting gate that is at Sioux Center for \$1,200. All ayes.** The price was the amount spent on repairs for that gate in 2006.

Royal also mentioned that private donations had been raised to have some races at the Kahoka fair. They will need a starting gate there and asked what it would cost to rent one. The board agreed to let the Kahoka fair use the gate for the day if they paid Jim's expenses and daily rate. They have raised \$14,000 for purses and most of the officials have volunteered their time to race on Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The conditions will be in the circuit book with a clear notice at the top of the page that it is funded with private donations and is not sponsored by the IaHHA.

Dan Roland mentioned that there had been a contact from a former Iowa resident who has announcing experience and was interested in moving back to Iowa. Dan also distributed a link to an online archive of some of his race calls prior to the meeting. Hiring that person would allow Herb to judge more, taking some of the pressure off scheduling judges. In the past he has done whichever position was needed. **Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to offer Richard Kranzel Jr. the announcer job for the full schedule at \$100/day plus the standard fuel (not mileage) and motel reimbursement. All ayes.**

The judges discussion centered on the decision at the November meeting to go back to a single presiding judge at the stakes races instead of two. A number of directors thought it was important to have two sets of trained eyes watching the races when the purses were higher. The expected budget savings from the change was around \$5,000.

**Motion by Larry Jenson, seconded by Mark Holtan, to hire a second presiding judge for the colt stakes races as in the past.**

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

**Nay – Jim Reese**

**Abs – Dan Roland**

The officials committee will be assigning judges for Central City but not Bloomfield and Kahoka. **Fairs that want to hire their own judges need to have the contracts done and notify the IaHHA by April 1<sup>st</sup> or the association will assign a judge.**

The board discussed in great length the issue of owner and trainer entries. It was agreed that all splits in the past have been done in accordance with USTA rules. Some members were concerned about the sale of 5% of a horse to facilitate splitting. The general agreement at this time was to leave the rules as is and follow the USTA standards.

At the Annual Membership meeting the issue of splitting fillies and colts was discussed. The stakes races are already set up to minimize the mixing of colts and fillies whenever possible. A unanimous show of hands supported letting the fillies draw inside the colts if there was a mixed division. The board discussed whether that should apply to all races or just the stakes races.

**Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Jack Wilkening, that in any mixed division of any race at the Iowa fairs that the fillies draw inside the colts.**

**Aye – Scott Smith, Jim Reese, Dan Roland, Bob Kohlwes, Jack Wilkening, Mark Holtan, Larry Jenson**

**Nay – Rick Mishler**

The board reviewed the colt stakes conditions and made changes as needed. The updates will be mailed to the membership ASAP for the February 15<sup>th</sup> payments. It was discussed whether the board should be publishing the conditions or using the Midwest Circuit for that. It was agreed to continue using the Midwest Circuit.

Next the board discussed the issue of the judges using cameras with their decisions. It was agreed that sometimes the camera angle can throw off or give misleading images depending on the angle of viewing. Jim Reese said that when he judged it was very helpful to be able to replay things for review. It was agreed if use of the camera was allowed it had to be a defined camera and reviews must be completed in a timely manner or postponed until after the races. It was agreed to table the issue for further discussion at the April meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the draws and programs. The board was very disappointed to only receive one bid after the large amount of discussion over the years and especially the last four months. The one bid received seemed fair and adequate. There were questions about a line on the bid for miscellaneous expenses. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jim Reese, to award the contract to do the draws and programs to Becky Roland and Amy Kohlwes with miscellaneous expenses to be documented. All ayes.**

The board had a brief discussion on the IaHHA drug testing policy. It was agreed there were questions on the effectiveness of the TC02 testing as well as only testing blood but not urine. Royal is waiting for some information back from ISU on options and costs. The issue was tabled to be discussed further at the April meeting.

The next item on the agenda was the 2007 budget. A few changes were made from discussions prior in the meeting. **Motion by Rick Mishler, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve the budget as amended for judges expenses.**

Royal gave an update on the external audit. It is expected to be completed by the end of March at an estimated cost of \$1,500 – 2,000. The results will be available to all members as well as the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

The next item on the agenda was committee assignments.

Hall Of Fame/Awards Committee – Larry Jenson (Chair), Jack Wilkening, Jim Reese

Legislative Committee – Royal Roland (Chair), Rick Mishler, Mark Holtan, Dan Roland, Larry Jenson, Bob Kohlwes

Promotion Committee - Mark Holtan (Chair), Rick Mishler, Bob Kohlwes

Scholarship Committee – Mark Holtan (Chair), Rick Mishler, Jim Reese

Officials Committee – Scott Smith (Chair), Jack Wilkening, Dan Roland

It was mentioned that the tv for the photo finish camera needs replaced. The board authorized Kim Larson to find a replacement.

The board set the following schedule for 2007 board meetings.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 2:00pm – Ankeny

June 30<sup>th</sup> @ Humboldt

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> @ Prairie Meadows

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> @ Ankeny

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.