

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

November 21st, 2009

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 1:15 pm on November 21, 2009 at the in Ankeny, IA. Scott Smith and Jack Wilkening were absent.

The board reviewed the minutes for the October 3rd meeting. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to approve the minutes as presented. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the treasurers report. Breeders awards still need to be paid this year and will be \$56,146. They had been budgeted at \$60,000. The PAC fund has a balance of about \$6,700 with another \$2,000 collected with memberships that need to be transferred. PAC contributions to candidate funds will go out in December. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jeff Carey, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. All ayes.**

Royal gave a review of what happened at the IRGC meeting. After considerable negative comment from Prairie Meadows each commissioner spoke before the decision was announced. Toni Urban's main comment was that the change was too abrupt for breeders. Greg Seyfer agreed with Toni Urban and also commented that the plan Prairie Meadows presented conflicts with the Ray/Reed study Prairie Meadows had commissioned to guide them. Andrea Riviera-Harrison's main comment was her concern over loss of jobs due to the change. Paul Hayes also commented on the sudden drastic change, as well as advocating multi-year agreements and urging Prairie Meadows to shorten the time between races. Kate Cutler spoke last was spoke at length in support of horse racing.

After comment the board voted unanimously that there be some mixed TB/QH meet with an increased number of performances for the QH group. They also stated that there should be at least 10 days of Standardbred racing for at least \$550,000. In addition they said that while they did not have the authority to force Prairie Meadows to pay the county fair funding they were strongly encouraging it and would await the outcome of those negotiations before finalizing the actual days and purses for Standardbred racing at Prairie Meadows.

The board then spent considerable time discussing options on how to proceed with negotiations and what the long term goals of the association are. Prior to the IRGC meeting there had been discussion of a legislative compromise that would trade racing at Prairie Meadows for guaranteed funding in the code for as long as there is horse racing. It was agreed that was something that would be considered but that absent any change of the code that it was in the best interests of the association to retain as many days of racing as possible at Prairie Meadows. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to retain a lawyer to assist in negotiations with Prairie Meadows. All ayes.**

Larry Jenson presented the Awards/Hall of Fame committee report. Horse of the Year ballots will be mailed out shortly and must be received back by Larry by December 21st to allow trophies to be purchased prior to the annual meeting January 16th. There were no human nominations received by the committee for the hall of fame this year. Khaki's Feather and Branded were selected by a majority of the board members for induction from among the horse nominations received.

Mark Holtan presented the Promotion committee update. It was agreed to continue advertising in the Apples & Oats magazine. It was also agreed to revive efforts to get out a quarterly newsletter. The board also discussed having a \$100 consolation prize for the Pick-10 to be split among the people who are the last ones to miss a race.

The scholarships are now handled by the non-profit association. We will handle the paperwork for them but they will select the winners. There will be a \$2,000 award for a graduating high school senior and a \$1,000 award to a current college student. Applications will be available on the association web site.

There is one proposed by-law change. It was requested to make associate (non-voting) memberships be free of charge. This could be helpful in increasing our membership rolls. **Motion by Royal Roland, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to present this proposed by-law change to the membership at the annual meeting in January. All ayes.**

The 2010 budget was deferred pending the outcome of negotiations with Prairie Meadows. The annual membership meeting will be January 16th, 2010 in Marshalltown. The board agreed to subsidize the banquet at a rate of \$10 per person. Directors Jack Wilkening, Bob Kohlwes and Royal Roland are up for re-election.

For the 2010 season the board discussed some proposed changes to the penalties associated with the drug testing policy. They also discussed potentially following the Prairie Meadows rule of no one handed whipping at any time in the race. It was also commented that we might need to find someone to video tape the races to help the judges with their

calls. That was missed greatly in 2009. It was agreed that all of these issues should be discussed at the annual meeting prior to official action being taken.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27.