

laHHA Board Meeting

Tentative Minutes

January 23rd, 2010

The laHHA Board of Directors met at 12:15 pm on January 23rd, 2010 in Ankeny, IA. Larry Jenson, Scott Smith, Mark Holtan, Dan Roland, Royal Roland, Rick Huffman, Jeff Carey, Mark Holtan and Jim Reese were present. Bob Kohlwes arrived late. Also in attendance were Lisa Broderick, Dal Grooms and Doug Vail.

Dan Roland presented the minutes from the prior board meeting for approval. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve the minutes. All Ayes.**

Jim Reese presented the Treasurer's Report. The annual meeting expenses were 2,358.75. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jeff Carey, to approve the treasurer's report. All Ayes.**

Dal Grooms presented her ideas on improvements in our promotional efforts. Her main points were to identify a message and to focus stories on human interest subjects. The association spent about \$5,000 in 2009 on promotional efforts. The board asked Dal to put together some recommendations with cost estimates to the Promotion Committee for review.

The board discussed officers. **Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to have the same officers as 2009. All Ayes.**

The following committee assignments were made.

Legislative – Bob Kohlwes, Dan Roland
Promotion – Mark Holtan, Jeff Carey
Officials – Scott Smith, Rick Huffman
By-Laws – Jim Reese, Dan Roland, Mark Holtan
Communication – Bob Kohlwes, Mark Holtan, Scott Smith
Awards/Hall Of Fame – Larry Jenson, Rick Huffman

Royal presented the legislative update. The primary goal is to get the county fair funding within the money Prairie Meadows is required to pay. We are exploring both legislative and legal options to do that. House Majority Leader McCarthy yesterday announced there would be a gambling debate to try to allow casinos to hold large poker tournaments in areas of their building that are not currently authorized for gambling.

Scott Smith presented the Officials Committee update. Jim Newman is planning on starting again in 2010. Bobby Williams has decided not to return to Iowa this year. Jim has a friend that is interested in driving the car.

Steve Huffman took his judges test over the winter and is available to judge. Having Kally Mouw to do most of the northwest races was helpful in reducing expenses and the board agreed he did a very good job in his first year as a judge. Dan Moy is available but would like to limit his work to the southeast corner of the state to stay closer to home. Dan also recommended a fellow judge from Illinois that is starting out.

Scott has talked to Ron Banks, Tony Paris, Bub Hoskins and Richard Kranzel about announcing. Once a race schedule has been finalized he will start working on the contracts.

The board discussed comments from the judges about the value of having the races video taped and how much more difficult it was to judge in 2009 without the recording available. Some board members felt we would be wiser to spend money on someone to record the races instead of hiring a 2nd judge for the feature races.

Scott has not talked to anyone about charting. Kim Larson and Richard Kranzel are both licensed charters.

There had been a proposed change to the by-laws to allow free associate memberships with non-voting privileges. The by-laws already included the associate memberships and did not specify a fee so we do not need a by-law change to do this. The Membership Communication Committee is going to work on publicizing the new memberships.

Hall of Fame committee discussion centered around the costs of the awards. Awards at the recent banquet cost \$830. **Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Rick Huffman, to keep the awards for 2010 the same as 2009.**
Aye – Bob, Rick, Mark, Dan, Larry, Scott, Jeff
Abstain - Jim

As the beginning of the budget discussion the board discussed the member feedback at the annual meeting in regards to whether to scrape the track at Prairie Meadows if we have to pay for \$250,000 for it. The vote at the annual meeting was 29-14 in favor of scraping the track. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Jeff Carey, that we race on a Standardbred style quality track at Prairie Meadows.**

Aye – Bob, Mark, Dan, Larry, Jeff, Royal

Nay – Rick, Scott, Jim

Given the expected expense related to the prior motion the board then had a lengthy discussion on options for reducing costs. Each director was allowed a turn to speak their thoughts on the options.

Motion by Scott Smith, seconded by Dan Roland, to race eight colt stakes races instead of nine.

Aye – Jeff, Scott, Dan, Rick, Royal

Nay – Larry, Mark, Jim, Bob

Motion by Jim Reese, seconded by Dan Roland, to reduce the purses for the aged races to \$1,500 per division with the same number of races

Aye – Bob, Jim, Mark, Dan, Scott

Nay – Jeff, Larry, Rick

Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to cut the fair grant payments 50% from \$1,000/day to \$500/day. All Aye

Scott Smith left the meeting.

Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to make the What Cheer, Humboldt and Sioux Center early meets qualifiers only and to make the Oskaloosa early meet one day only with reduced purses.

Aye – Mark, Bob, Jeff, Jim, Rick, Dan

Nay - Larry

Motion by Rick Huffman, seconded by Jeff Carey to make all overnight races \$600. All Aye

Motion by ?, seconded by ?, to reduce the sire stakes funding from \$20,000 to \$15,000. All Aye

After the decision to reduce the number of colt stakes races the board discussed which races to cut.

Motion by Dan Roland, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to remove the 2yo colt race from Sioux Center on July 31st.

Aye – Dan , Bob, Jeff, Jim, Rick

Nay – Larry, Mark

Motion by Bob Kohlwes, seconded by Jeff Carey, to remove the 3yo colt race from Humboldt on August 28th because of the circus.

Aye – Bob, Jeff, Rick, Jim, Dan

Nay – Larry, Mark

The board discussed the subject of entries and the draws. It was agreed things went much more smoothly in 2009 and everything was satisfactory.

The board discussed the fact that old monies in the Prairie Meadows accounts used to pay our ½ of the satellite uplink charges has been used up. We paid some money out of the fair account for 2009 uplink charges. With Prairie Meadows showing the video of the races on their website immediately after each race and the reductions already made this may be something to cut. **Motion by Mark Holtan, seconded by Bob Kohlwes, to not pay for any uplink charges related to simulcasting in 2010.**

Aye – Jeff, Rick, Bob, Jim, Mark, Dan

Nay - Larry

The board set the following meeting schedule for 2009...

April 17th –Ankeny

July 4th – Humboldt

October 2nd –Prairie Meadows

November 20th – 1:00 Ankeny

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.