

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE CALIFORNIA HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
April 3, 2016**

Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Harness Horsemen's Association (CHHA) held at the CHHA Office in Sacramento, California on April 3, 2016.

PRESENT:

David Neumeister
David Siegel
Bob Johnson
Luke Plano
Steve Wiseman
Robin Clements
Richard Thomas
Wayne Knittel (phone)
Billie Schwartz (phone)

As a result, all nine members of the board of directors were present. Also in attendance was Jimmy Perez, Executive Director of CHHA.

Mr. Neumeister, President, presided. Minutes from the previous meeting had already been approved via an email vote so there were no minutes to approve.

It was noted that the three board incumbents, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Knittel and Ms. Clements, ran unopposed so no membership election was required. All three terms will now expire in 2019.

Mr. Perez and Mr. Siegel reported on several items regarding insurance. The successful rate change for back stretch workers has resulted in a new minimum Workers Compensation premium at \$2190 per year. The board unanimously voted to have a "co-pay" of a fixed \$200, which would result in a maximum reimbursement of \$1990 per trainer. Mr. Perez reminded the board that CHHA membership is a prerequisite for any CHHA benefits, including but not limited to Workers Compensation reimbursement. Mr. Perez committed to give Ms. Clements a list of non-member trainers and she will attempt to recruit those trainers for enrollment.

Mr. Siegel summarized the other insurance coverages acquired by CHHA. This included a general liability policy required by Cal-Expo, Directors and Officers liability, which was most recently uncovered, and finally an "umbrella" accident policy for drivers and trainers for the amount over \$250,000 and up to \$1 million, which represents an amount over and above which is currently covered by Watch and Wager.

Key dates for the 2016/2017 meet were discussed. These include the track closing date of May 15, 2015 (current meet), track (main and back) and barn area opening on September 5, 2016, and opening night of October 23, 2016. The complete calendar was reviewed including the ending of Sunday racing in favor of Friday racing, which Watch and Wager estimates will add about \$2000 to the purse pool weekly.

The Horsemen's Agreement draft was reviewed by Mr. Siegel. The dates referred to above are included in the Agreement and other key changes were discussed. Previous amendments were now reflected in the body of the agreement. The bottom "accordion" claiming level will be at \$3000 (rather than \$2000 as in the current meet). This is aimed at having more than one division of the race as we have had for the horses and geldings during the current meet. In addition, referring to a meeting between Watch and Wager as represented by Mr. Schick and Mr. Kenney, Mr. Perez, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Neumeister, it was agreed that condition claimers would continue to be written consistently through the meet, and combined if needed with appropriate other races. Similarly, claiming prices would be attached to most non-winners of "x" dollars in the last 4 races to allow more flexibility in entry. It was also requested that non-winners of 1 race remain uncombined with other classes as long as enough were entered. It was suggested that the CHHA communicate with management that the late closers typically targeted at horses that remained in California be run during the third week (or later) of the meet to allow them to adequately prepare given the later opening of the track as compared with the current meet. Finally, an updated incentive program was reviewed that was in concept the same as the current meet, with certain specific amounts increased by \$100. All agreed the incentive program worked well in terms of implementation during the current meet.

The Horsemen's Agreement, including all of its components and attachments, was unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Thomas was seconded by Mr. Siegel.

Discussion was had regarding a "Cal-Sota" incentive program that is being proposed by Watch and Wager. The basics of the program were explained by Mr. Perez where horses that raced in Minnesota during 2016 (with some minimum number of starts) would be eligible for a 10% win bonus when they raced at Cal-Expo during the 2016/17 meet so long as they did not race at another venue other than in Minnesota prior to the start of the Cal-Expo 2016/17 meet. Similarly, horses that race during the Cal-Expo 2016/17 meet (with some minimum number of starts) would be eligible for a 10% win bonus when they race at Running Aces during the 2017 meet. The board supported this proposal in principle, but since no specific terms were offered, no vote was taken. The specifics of the program will be resolved in writing prior to a CHHA board vote.

Mr. Siegel briefly discussed the need for house rules. He referred to Capitol Racing's set of rules and that no such parallel rules have been published since. He has written a set of rules modelled on Capitol's, updated, and agreed to by the Stewards in 2007. He asked for further board input over the next several weeks, and then will "resurrect" discussions with Watch and Wager with the hope that these rules will be agreed to by all parties (management, horsemen and stewards) in time for the 2016/17

meet. The rules are Watch and Wager's, but CHHA is supporting the publication of such rules to avoid confusion about such rules not supported by documentation.

Mr. Neumeister and Mr. Siegel, both board members, were unanimously re-elected as President and Vice President respectively. Vickie Desomer was re-elected as Treasurer and Robin Clements was re-elected as the Horsemen's Representative. Both of these re-elections were unanimous.

There being no further business to come before the CHHA board, the meeting was, upon motion, duly seconded and approved, adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Siegel

Secretary of the meeting