

MHRI Board Meeting
Thursday, March 14, 2018
Teleconference

Present: Mark Corless, Bob Lems, Rick Bertrand, Kyle VanOtterloo, Jessica Johnson, Greg Budach, Justin Anfinson, Rick Magee, Nick Roland, & Cathy Dessert

Absent: Vern Devine

Agenda: Move discussion of executive secretary position to the end of the agenda so Rick Bertrand can participate in the majority of the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Mark moved to approve the agenda this was 2nd by Cathy & it carried.

Rick Bertrand moved to approve the minutes from the January 11th & February 24th meetings which was 2nd by Nick Roland & it carried.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Justin Anfinson and 2nd by Mark Coreless & it carried.

Racing committee report: Mark submitted the report from the racing committee meeting which was held on March 12th. Jessica also summarized. Some positive news & some not so positive. Commissioner McArdle expressed that she was impressed with the growth thus far and both her and Commissioner Lane said they would like to provide support for the next couple of years to hopefully see more growth of the trotters. There was no notification that Joe Scurto planned to recommend taking money away from the fairs.

Ben Blum guaranteed a \$25,000 minimum purse for the trotters & \$30,000 if at least 6 starters.

The commission is expected to announce at the March 15th meeting there would be no money for the fairs and gave no reason for the change from what had been discussed. There was no opportunity for discussion or interaction. They will rubber stamp the proposal of the committee meeting. The MRC & Running Aces would like to eventually get the finals night purses up to \$100,000.

We discussed classifications for Minnesota Breds and talked about polling the membership on classifying A/B or how best to implement the overnight MN Bred classes going forward. We need to be concerned about the weekly races and keeping the MN Bred classes going weekly. We also talked about the need to maintain the requirements to qualify for the MN Bred Finals.

Jessica volunteered to write a letter informing the membership of the latest action & how it affects us for this year.

Ben has talked about his desire to eventually open up the weekly racing and eliminate the MN Bred restricted races offering supplements to MN Breds racing in open company instead. We need to be vigilant in opposing this idea.

County fair discussion – We discussed possible ways to fund the fairs in the years to come. Rick B. suggested a nomination fee for foals to be eligible or asking Running Aces to sponsor the fairs in some way.

Michael Banitt had volunteered to help raise funding for Cannon Falls and Mark mentioned he would contact Michael to follow up on pursuing this. Greg will put the numbers together for what would be available for county fairs for 2018 based on revenues from 2017.

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Dates planned for 2018 would be July 4th at Cannon Falls, August 8th at St Peter, September 22 & 23 at Wheaton, and September 29th at Cannon Falls.

We discussed the schedule for MN Breds at Aces scheduling eight 2-year-old events and twelve 3-year-old events again this year plus the championships. Kyle proposed finalizing the dates on the calendar at the next board meeting.

Greg will contact Dan about "Summer Fling" as well as turning in the computer, cell phone, etc.

We will ask for communication on stall application and allocation from Ben so we can make sure our membership is fairly represented. Nick volunteered to contact Ben regarding allocations before they are published.

Jessica mentioned that Dee Leftwich asked for a check to help him cover the cost for his photography services for the year again. He is asking for a small raise and would like \$23 per day this year.

Several board members expressed concerns over his quality & think he needs to do a better job. Kyle would be willing to talk with him and make some suggestions. **Mark moved to pay Dee the \$23 per day in advance which was 2nd by Rick B. and it carried.**

Jessica asked about possibly getting reimbursed for the cost of her flights that she had scheduled and paid for but the meetings got changed and she couldn't cancel the flights. **Mark moved to reimburse Jessica for the cost of those flights totaling \$477.30, Kyle 2nd the motion which carried.**

Next meeting set for Thursday April 5th at Perkins in Faribault at 6:15 p.m. Mark will contact them to reserve the space.

Executive secretary discussion – All board members are welcome to participate in the interview process. Kyle suggested we limit 2 or 3 board members to ask the questions and then offer an open forum for more feedback. Tentative date set for March 24th beginning at 1:00 p.m. Christie Huring, Robert Schiewe, Chrissie Johnson, Michaela Lowe, Wayne Oke will all be asked to the interview.

Mark will contact Running Aces about using their board room on the 24th. **Justin moved to adjourn 2nd by Rick M. & it carried.**

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