

MHRI Board Meeting
Thursday, May 10, 2018
Horsemen's Lounge, Running Aces

Present: Mark Corless, Jessica Johnson, Greg Budach, Nick Roland, Vern Devine, Cathy Dessert, Bob Lems, Rick Bertrand, Justin Anfinson, & Kyle VanOtterloo via phone.

Absent: Rick Magee

Guest: Ben Blum

Called to order 6:38 p.m.

Agenda: Vern moved to approve & Cathy 2nd & it carried.

Justin Anfinson moved to accept minutes from April 5th which were 2nd by Nick Roland & it carried.

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

Ben Blum explained to the board the plan for incentives for Minnesota owned horses in 2018. Horses owned at least 50% by Minnesota owners will be eligible for the same allowances as Minnesota bred horses receive giving them an extra win as well as 50% claiming allowance and a 30% allowance in earnings for classification. This covers any horse purchased by a Minnesota owner. The plan will be reassessed as the season progresses.

A motion was made by Cathy to accept the proposed plan which was 2nd by Justin & it carried.

We discussed qualifying times with Ben and he proposed to allow an extra second for 2 year olds and county fairs until August 1st when the allowance would end. He mentioned that he sets the times & the judges approve.

Jessica moved & Vern 2nd to support Ben's plan to propose to the judges & the motion carried.

Bob Schiewe addressed the board thanking us for the opportunity to work for MHRI.

He highlighted some of the things he has been working on so far. He highlighted the website, dues/membership collection, new contract, MRC connections, & county fair promotions.

Mark reported on the opportunities for improvements during construction of the new hotel. He mentioned the new video board by the tote board which will be tested during the qualifiers. He also stated that the bridge access will remain open as the new bridge is constructed over I35 keeping access open to Running Aces.

We discussed the track committee and how we'd like it to be an open invitation to anyone that would like to participate. We will post a sign-up sheet outside the MHRI office as well as make several announcements to encourage participation from all geography's.

We need to provide assurance to the horsemen that the board is accessible and make announcements of upcoming board meetings. We also talked about putting up a suggestion box. Mark suggested he would be available every Saturday from 11-1 for interaction with membership. Any other board members would be welcome as well.

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Bob S. mentioned the Website is hosted by Go Daddy and acknowledged that it needs much work & updating. He mentioned the Illinois Harness horsemen pay \$900 per year for their webhosting. He will discuss with their administrator. We need to remove Susan from the Go Daddy account.

Bob S. will send purse fund reports monthly as he receives them.

Houle's & Purina are willing to provide funding for our membership welcome dinner either on May 21 or 28 with preference for the 28th.

We discussed the letter Mark had received from Tom Di Pasquale - after some discussion Bob S. suggested a possible compromise in the language of the card club statute that would make funding available for the fairs. Bob will compose a suggested draft for the board to review before submitting to Tom.

Rick B brought up race bike or equipment insurance.

Vern mentioned concerns about some minorities not feeling accepted.

Jessica mentioned the need to discuss concerns of possible conflict of interest of former Aces employees now working for the MRC.

Next meeting tentative for June 7th at Running Aces 6:30

Vern moved to adjourn which was 2nd by Rick B. & it carried.