

MHRI Board Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 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, Rick Magee, & Kyle VanOtterloo via phone. Bob Schiewe

Absent: None

Called to order 6:45 p.m.

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

Vern Devine moved to accept the minutes from May which were 2nd by Jessica Johnson & it carried.

We discussed inviting input from our general membership at our board meetings; Mark suggested limiting comments to 3 minutes. Others suggested 5 minutes & we discussed the need to publish the notice of meeting with the agenda ahead of time.

Mark Corless moved to add the membership invitation to our board meetings as a regular agenda item which was 2nd by Nick Roland & it carried.

Jessica mentioned her concerns about the Horse Racing Integrity Act (HR2651) which would create a Federal agency to oversee drug testing and eliminate the use of Lasix as well as change control of simulcast rules etc. The USTA has come out in opposition of this for various reasons but mainly the ban of Lasix.

Bob S. didn't think there is anything we need to do right now but we need to keep our eyes on its progress and keep it as an agenda item for now.

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

Executive secretary's report: Bob made contact with Mark Warren of Elixir studios who quoted a one-time expense of \$4250 plus a maintenance fee of \$150 monthly to manage our website. An additional fee of \$5.00 per month for each e-mail as well.

This group currently manages the site for Illinois Harness so they are familiar with horse racing & the site automatically adapts to mobile devices.

Jessica Johnson moved that we hire this group & get our site updated as soon as possible. Cathy Dessert 2nd the motion & it carried.

Summer Fling news: the contracts went out to all 70 participants and we've started to receive response from all. Bob will make sure they are invited to the VIP new owner seminar scheduled in July. We talked about better coordination of these events & discussed the Minnesota incentive bonuses & if they should be added to the purse distribution of Summer Fling or kept with the current owner.

Bob shared a letter to MHRI Members from Bob Aldrich (director of security) explaining the visitor policy. He is not happy with the way they're doing it but explained the process for now.

Presidents' report: Mark mentioned there has been some interest expressed by several youth groups in touring the barn area & participating at some level. He also addressed some concerns about people abusing the Minnesota ownership policy to race horses in Minnesota owned classes.

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Mark shared his correspondence from our lobbyist regarding language in current statute that in their opinion allows us to negotiate with Running Aces for money for county fairs from card club if we can negotiate above the required minimum by statute. We need to pursue solving this with the MRC this summer so this is established for next year's county fair funding.

Drivers committee discussion: Rick Magee volunteered to represent the drivers regarding safety issues, track conditions etc. with the judges.

Race Bike & equipment insurance discussion: Bob will look into other states and how they are handling their policies.

Rick Magee moved to approve up to \$1500 in self-insurance conditional on final details to be set prior to implementation based on Bob's findings from comparable self-insurers in other jurisdictions. Nick Roland 2nd the motion & it carried with 1 abstention.

We discussed Minnesota owned concerns & those transferring ownership to fit conditions. This is difficult to police & we agreed to re-evaluate as the season progresses.

We discussed the Mount Hope Barn fire & that there is some connection to Running Aces.

Bob will check the GoFundMe website to see if other organizations like MHRI have made contributions.

Nick Roland moved & Rick Bertrand 2nd to donate \$100 per horse in honor of the two horses with Minnesota connections that were killed in the fire & the motion carried.

Nick Roland brought up ponying rules & mentioned he would be willing to write a letter to Ben asking to re-instate ponying during non-track hours.

Mark moved to have Nick discuss with Ben & write the necessary letter to move this forward, 2nd By Rick Bertrand & it carried.

Rick Bertrand asked about aged trotters & if there's enough to fill a colt & mare division; could it be written?

Bob S. will get confirmation.

Next meeting July 9th at 6:30 in the Aces horsemen's lounge.

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