

MHRI Board Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2018
Teleconference

Present: Mark Corless, Kyle VanOtterloo, Cathy Dessert, Vern Devine, Greg Budach, Bob Schiewe
Nick Roland, Jessica Johnson, Rick Magee, & Rick Bertrand
Absent: Bob Lems & Justin Anfinson
Called to order at 6:45 p.m.

Agenda: Vern Devine moved to approve the amended agenda which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & it carried.

November 13th minutes: Vern Devine moved to approve the minutes after amended to remove the vets name from the discussion which was 2nd by Rick Bertrand & it carried.

Treasurers' report: Vern Devine moved to approve the treasurer's report which was 2nd by Rick Bertrand & it carried.

Annual meeting discussion: Cathy offered that A.J. Houle's has over \$1,000 in items for donation.

We discussed the stallion auction and its success but determined that we need to offer some valid earmarks for the money generated that would somehow help the sponsors as well as create good will for the organization. In the past we've just designated it as marketing funds but the group did not feel that that is the best way to describe the funds.

Mark suggested that we form a committee to recommend a more proper disbursement of these funds. Mark, Jessica, Cathy, & Greg all volunteered. They will meet to discuss plans for recommendations to the board.

Rick Magee will check into a possible guest speaker for our meeting (possibly Aaron Merriman).

Bob Schiewe mentioned that Darin Gagne had expressed interest in coming to emcee the event and could work on putting together the presentations & video for our award winners.

Nick Roland moved to pay Darin's travel & motel expenses (up to 2 nights hotel) for the event, 2nd by Greg Budach & it carried.

Mark talked about the possible sports betting legislation & mentioned that the Native Americans will need to support anything that is proposed or it will not have much chance. Canterbury cannot actively lobby for a sports betting bill due to their contract with Mystic Lake.

Bob Schiewe reported that the Mdewakanton Sioux wrote a letter to the Governor's office opposing the use of the new "video" Poker Game being used at Running Aces. The MRC has already approved the use of this game.

Bob also stated that he has heard from 3 people with firm commitments on running for the board of directors. He also has 2 others that have expressed interest & he is in discussion with them. He expects to get a commitment in the next week.

Summer Fling update: I'm Blue too has returned to racing & has several wins now. Justin reached out to Bob about the Summer Fling payouts. Bob did an audit of the accounts & found errors that the Running Aces bookkeeper made. After pointing out these errors, Bob contacted Robin & Rick who then sent reimbursements to MHRI c/o Summer Fling. Greg has mailed out checks to all Summer Fling members that we have contact info for. There are still several that we can seem to make contact with.

MHRI Board Meeting
Monday, December 10, 2018
Teleconference

Bob mentioned that we should start looking for trainers & horses now for the Summer Fling, and he believes it is a very good program and will only get better with experience.

Horse Expo: Bob has made contact & should be able to get more stalls & Cathy mentioned that we need to provide them with a proper script for the parade of breeds.

Tom DiPasquale from the MRC had announced that Ben Blum and Andrew Offerman (from Canterbury) were going to attend the global racing symposium in Arizona.

After discussion with MHRI officers we determined to send Bob to this event as well. He reported that there were lots of discussions regarding sports betting and that there are currently 7 states that have legalized it, New Jersey being the largest success so far.

So far the licenses have been granted only to existing racetracks or casinos.

Bob suspects the draft that Running Aces has planned does not include money for horse racing. He felt it very important that we have a good lobbyist & that we keep close contact on the progress of any potential bill so that horse racing gets a piece of any money generated.

Mark reported on the TVG watch party that we co-hosted along with Running Aces. There was a good group and lots of interest with the feeling that it was money well spent. Our total cost for the salad bar, appetizers, & soft drinks was less than \$200.

He talked about the plans for the new hotel along with upgrading the apron & winners circle. Aces knows that we need to be involved in the decisions on the winners circle. Mark also mentioned Taro's idea for corporate sponsorship & his idea of randomly drawing 3 trainers in a particular class for up to 3 corporate sponsors. They are still forming ideas on how this might work.

Microchipping of foals & horses will start in 2019.

Trotting update: Jessica posed the question of whether we provide the MRC with an update on trotting numbers using mares bred or foals registered. Last year we provided mares bred.

Mark suggested supplying both and has asked to be on the agenda at the next committee meeting.

Board comments: Nick Roland proposed that we be involved in the process of securing judges & that we ask Aces to support us in that regard.

Next meeting set for teleconference Tuesday 15th at 6:00 P.M.

Vern Devine moved to adjourn which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & it carried.