

May 19, 2021 Tuesday

7:00 P.M. via ZOOM

Present: Greg Budach, Cathy Dessert, Rick Magee, Rick Bertrand, Kyle VanOtterloo, Mark Corless, Justin Anfinson, Jessica Johnson, Patty Strand.

Absent: Bob Lems, Nick Roland, Scott Banitt

Agenda: Mark Corless moved to approve the agenda which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Johnson & carried.

Mark Corless moved to approve the April and special meeting minutes which were 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Bertrand & carried.

We discussed opening night and the issues in the test barn with the safety boards they installed.

Justin had met with Steve May and the state vet who claimed that our horses are dangerous thus requiring the safety boards. The MRC is not interested in changing their policy on these boards and Justin had suggested to Steve May that they put the boards in only a few stalls as a compromise for those concerned about their safety. Steve thought that was a good compromise but has not gotten back to us with a final response.

The paddock is rather confusing with them using every other stall some nights and other nights they use all stalls.

Hopefully this will resolve when all of the mandates end on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Drivers' committee: Rick Magee and Nick Roland volunteered and will check to see with non-board members who would be willing to participate.

Track committee: Rick Bertrand, Jessica Johnson & Justin Anfinson volunteered and will ask others to participate.

Patty mentioned she was contacted by the Minnesota State fair to see if we had an interest in bringing a Standardbred to the parade of breeds. They would offer us a booth at no charge and we'd only be asked to cover 3 days of the fair.

Jessica Johnson volunteered to bring Firedrake and Patty will handle all of the details.

Cathy Dessert moved & Mark Corless 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the treasurer's report which was given by Greg Budach which then carried.

The Purse fund has \$4.48 million as of the end of April. Running Aces would like us to carry over \$750,000 till next year.

Taro will meet with us in June to discuss where we're at. Kyle VanOtterloo suggested that we ask Taro to increase purses to \$4,000,000 for 2021. Justin, Kyle, & Cathy agreed they could meet with Taro to discuss.

We have been very short on horses to start the meet. It will continue that way until more get qualified. They haven't been using all of the purse allocations to this point.

Jessica Johnson suggested we send a note to Steve Carpenito from the board regarding the need for combined claimers to go for the higher purse. Others suggested we could discuss it with him at a track committee meeting and that in person meeting would be better received than an email.

Mark Corless updated the board on the Covid vaccination day. Running Aces had something posted but have not followed through. Mark will continue to pursue it with Taro.

Jessica questioned why the letter the board agreed to send at the last meeting did not get sent and was handled by a phone call instead.

Justin felt it was more urgent & productive to call and go over the issues.

He agreed to follow the board's recommendations in the future. Jessica had shared it with Nick prior to sending it to Patty although the letter never made it to Taro.

Jessica asked the question as to what has changed since Covid? No golf cart, Drivers room, Horsemen's lounge, Owners on the backside, Race office open, Jog cart rides. Once restrictions are lifted all of these should be restored.

Cathy Dessert mentioned that Dee Leftwitch would like to be paid as he was last year. Cathy suggested writing a contract and have him sign it before we pay him anything.

Kyle VanOtterloo suggested we give him half up front and the remainder after he has shown improvement on areas that we share with him that he needs to change. Jessica suggested we pay him but also look for someone else in the future.

Mark Corless moved to pay Dee \$632.50 right away and the remaining \$632.50 on August 1 if he improves on the areas we suggest, the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cathy Dessert and carried. Mark will talk with him regarding areas of concern.

Darin is asking us to pay for one night of free programs per week for the year. Patty will check into the actual cost of producing them.

Cathy Dessert mentioned the weekly legislative meetings that Steve May has been working on. Cathy and Patty have been sitting in on those meetings. Legislation will probably happen during the upcoming special session.

Next board meeting, Wednesday June 23, 7:00 P.M.

Cathy Dessert moved to adjourn which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Bertrand & carried