

June 23, 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, Bob Lems, Nick Roland, Scott Banitt, & Patty Strand.

Absent:

Guest: Jay DeLong

Agenda: Mark Corless asked to add Executive director discussion prior to election of officers. Also add Pick 4 support discussion.

Scott Banitt moved to approve the agenda which was 2nd by Cathy Dessert & carried.

Cathy Dessert moved to approve the May meeting minutes which was 2nd by Mark Corless & carried.

Executive Director Discussion: Mark Corless brought up the idea of hiring an executive director.

He feels we are missing representation and he read off a list of duties and responsibilities that would be expected of this position as well as to whom they would report. He suggested they cannot have ownership, train or drive horses.

He feels the salary could be covered by negotiating more money in our next contract with Running Aces as well as diverting money away from what we're currently paying our lobbyist.

After discussion Mark moved to pursue a position by the end of this year and also to retain the current officers in their existing roles for this next year which was 2nd by Nick Roland. Motion tabled until the July meeting.

Election of officers: Scott Banitt moved to retain the three officers in their existing roles for the next year which was 2nd by Bob Lems & carried.

Discussion: racing colts & fillies together- Fillies should draw inside; we discussed some of the drawbacks for that idea.

A question was raised about Thursday night racing vs. Saturday nights; we will need to review as more stats come in.

We can re-visit in the August agenda.

Cathy Dessert had presented Taro's response to our questions about a golf cart to take people to the winner's circle.

His claim is that Covid 19 is still a concern; he's worried about safety for the driver, as well as hiring a driver and paying for a cart. We will continue to pursue this. Justin mentioned that he will talk with John Betts to try and convince him of a compromise that might satisfy Taro.

Jessica Johnson mentioned her concerns about the rocks on the backside and the safety issue that they present. She would like us to send a letter to Running Aces about the safety hazard they present.

Justin will talk with Steve May about who would be responsible if a horse or person is injured in the test barn.

Judges welt rule discussion: Questions were raised regarding fines and suspensions being given; even when working within the rules. We also discussed consistency in rulings over out of competition testing.

Most of these are at the judge's discretion and there is no real way to change the rulings.

Cathy suggested appealing every judgement that is not consistent with the rules.

There was a suggestion that our board needs to better represent our horsemen when issues are conflicting.

We need to document these incidents and follow up where we see inconsistencies.

Cathy and Patty will compile examples from the last two years and share with the board.

Annual meeting dates options are, 2/26, 3/19, 3/26, with 3/19 being the most favored. Patty will try to book that date as our first choice.

New Owner incentive:

Mark Corless moved with Cathy Dessert 2nd to pay the incentive to the 4 new owners for this year & the motion carried.

Rice Lake fair discussion: Justin Anfinson moved & Rick Bertrand 2nd to donate \$3,000 to the Barron county fair in Rice Lake. The motion carried with one nay vote.

We were asked by Running Aces to continue our guarantee of the pick 4 pool. After discussion we agreed that Justin tell Steve Carpenito that we no longer wish to support this guarantee. Running Aces hasn't been great at following through with changes they agreed to make.

Patty will compose an e-mail to be sent to Steve Carpenito copying Taro, Steve May, & Bob Schiewe.

Executive secretaries report: Monday July 5th will be the "Ron Banks" memorial trot.

Running Aces is looking into doing something later this year to honor Steve Wiseman again, (Possibly a cancer fundraiser).

Greg mentioned that long time MHRI supporter & member Dale Watson passed away recently. We sent flowers to the memorial.

Luke Plano had an accident with his race bike destroying one of his wheels.

Mark Corless moved & Bob Lems 2nd that we pay him \$700 to cover the cost of replacement under our insurance policy & the motion carried.

Mark Corless moved & Cathy Dessert 2nd to approve the Treasurer's report which carried.

The monthly purse fund shows adding an additional \$400,000 to the account so they will be paying finishers 6 through 9 in Minnesota bred races. We expect to carry over \$500,000 into 2022 at minimum. The card room is recovering better than anticipated.

Total purses for the year should be \$4,400,000. We will review again in mid-July after which we should see another bump in purses.

The next board meeting set for July 21 via zoom at 7:00 p.m. with plans for an August meeting to be in person.

All moved to adjourn which was 2nd by All & carried