

Board Meeting

April 6, 2022 Saturday- 7:30 P.M.

Present: Greg Budach, Cathy Dessert, Rick Bertrand, Nick Roland, Jessica Johnson, Jeff Ryan, Dan Roland, Justin Anfinson, Kyle VanOtterloo, Bob Lems, Vikki Pfeilsticker, Kevin Decker

Absent:

Bob Lems moved to approve the minutes from Feb. 15th, March 17th & 19th meetings which were 2nd by Rick Bertrand, Vikki Pfeilsticker, and Jeff Ryan then carried.

Treasurer's report was read with motion to approve by Bob Lems and 2nd by Cathy Dessert and carried.

Aftercare:

Cathy spoke briefly about race horse aftercare and the MRC's desire for us to take a more active role. Running Aces has donated \$5,000 the last few years. Jessica mentioned that she thought Aces has a Juke Box and money raised from that goes towards aftercare. She will check on the details. Cathy mentioned possibly selling raffle tickets for a jog cart that could be used to raise funds or possibly using some ideas from HHI.

Legislative discussions:

The current bill in the house is not at all favorable to the tracks or horses and favors the tribes.

The senate version would be more favorable and has a possibility of passing by the end of the session. We discussed the need to keep communications open so we are included in any bill that passes.

HISA discussion:

Kevin spoke about our concerns over the HISA bill and we have sent a letter supporting the USTA's opposition to the MRC.

County Fairs:

Justin and Kyle met with Steve Carpenito and discussed our desire to use all of the \$175,000 contracted for the fairs this year. He suggested raising the purses and possibly adding some FFA events if Aces will agree to it to improve the quality of the races at the fairs. Steve will confirm if that's possible.

COVID protocols will be relaxed this year although 48 hour paperwork is still required to enter the grounds.

Purse supplement issue:

Aces proposes to take \$150,000 more from the MN breeders fund to supplement the bonus money. They would stop the 30% bonus if they reach higher than the contracted money.

We reviewed the Night of Champions conditions and agreed to forward them to Steve Carpenito along with our schedule.

Summer Fling discussion:

We will reach out to last year's participants first then open it to new interest. Rick Bertrand has at least one horse he can enroll. We need to have another committee meeting to finalize a date for enrollment and methods of taking payments.

Website:

We have not updated the website and Kevin will contact the web host to gain access and start to update and maintain it better. Dan Roland offered to help Kevin explore better updating processes; possibly posting nightly results and some statistics as well as a list of stallions standing in Minnesota. Everyone should build a list of things they'd like to see updated regularly. We discussed setting up a QR code to help with marketing.

New Business:

Jessica mentioned the need to update our systems so when changes happen we don't lose information and contacts.

She suggested we explore using Microsoft TEAMS instead of ZOOM for future meetings.

Jessica moved to have Kyle pursue obtain Microsoft TEAMS which was 2nd by Cathy & carried.

2022 Running Aces Marketing Plan:

Patty Strand is the liaison for Aces. Jog cart rides will be back, Patty is supplying the horse. Starting gate rides will come back this year as well. Thursday night Draft Beer night and other promotions are planned.

Kevin will check on live streaming the races through RTN.

Parade:

Vikki mention the City of Shoreview is asking for a horse to participate in their parade. There would be a \$150 fee and an application needs to be in by 6/30.22. Jessica volunteered to participate if we choose to do it. Vikki also volunteered to give tours of the backside for a silent auction fundraiser.

Jessica asked if we can get access from Aces to log coggins results with the USTA.

Election of officers:

Bob Lems moved to retain all three current officers t=in the existing roles which was 2nd by Dan Roland and carried.

Next board meeting scheduled for May 9th at Running Aces horsemen's lounge at 7:00 p.m.

All agreed to adjourn.