

## Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 2, 2024- 7:35 P.M.

Present: Greg Budach, Justin Anfinson, Jessica Johnson, Cathy Dessert, Tony Huffman, Vikki Pfeilsticker, Jesse DeLong, Dan Roland, Brian Detgen, & Brandon Jenson

Absent: Jeff Ryan has resigned

AGENDA: Jessica Johnson moved and Vikki Pfeilsticker 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the agenda which carried

Minutes: Cathy Dessert moved and Vikki Pfeilsticker 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the minutes from March 5th.

Treas. Report: Jessica Johnson moved to approve which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker and carried

Purse distribution discussion:

We discussed our options to keep the purses close to the same level as last year without having to cut at year end.

Brandon Jenson moved to cut the stipend for Minnesota Breds finishing out of the top five during the regular season and eliminating the aged Minnesota Breds classes along with cutting weekly purses by 4.5%, the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Justin Anfinson and carried 10:1.

Committee reports:

Aftercare –has not met

Breeders/MN Bred – has not met

By-Laws- has not met

County Fairs- has not met

Drivers- will meet when Aces opens

Hall of Fame –has not met

Legislative- There was a hearing yesterday at the MRC for public comment regarding historical racing. Cathy and AJ read statements in favor and the MRC voted favorably to move forward but are expecting a lawsuit from the tribes opposing their action. The MRC approved for HHR to take effect after the legislative session ends.

The Thoroughbreds and Canterbury are facing very difficult times if they don't get an influx of purse money to make them more competitive. They are talking about making some serious cuts to their program.

AJ & Cathy are going to the capitol on Thursday to meet with Cathy's senator and any others she can make contact with regarding Sports Wagering.

Both versions of the bills before the senate and house have amendments that make HHR illegal at the tracks. Our Lobbyist is working to change the current bills splits to be more even with the Thoroughbreds instead of the 72 to 28% split currently in the bill. Our focus needs to be on the senate as we have better support there. The current language uses the splits based on the ADW language.

Projections based on the current proposals would have a gross income of \$28,000,000 with only approximately \$1,000,000 for Standardbreds.

Membership Committee- Has not met

Condition book discussion:

Move the first meet at Cannon Falls from May 4<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>.

We discussed the remainder of the book.

Jessica Johnson moved to compensate entrants in a Minnesota bred race if there are only two horses entered at a rate of 37.5% each with the remainder to roll into future Minnesota Bred races; the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Roland and carried.

2024 Points vs. money discussion for champion awards:

After discussion, Jessica Johnson moved to use points for the 2 & 3 year old classes awards the same points as % of purses with aged horses using total money earned; the motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki Pfeilsticker after discussion the motion failed.

Dan Roland moved and Tony Huffman 2<sup>nd</sup> to base awards on total money earned at Aces including finals night for all 2, 3, and aged classes; motion carried.

Justin Anfinson moved to leave the county fair points system in place which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay DeLong and carried.

Dan Roland presented the schedule they had worked on for Minnesota Breds and moved to adopt it for 2024 which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Johnson and carried.

Marketing-AJ is on track working on social media and has a meeting scheduled later this week with Aaron from Running Aces to discuss trying to work together. We'd like to do more barn tours and AJ will coordinate so she is available for the tours. Darin sometimes gives tours to Running Aces staff; we need to coordinate with him when those happen.

Summer Fling -We have plenty of horses available and have order horses head bottle openers for gifts to Summer Fling participants. Some people are still awaiting pictures from last year.

Rule Change Committee-has not met

Photographer- AJ could not find a contract from last year, the marketing committee will write up a contract to have Nicole sign. Nancy volunteered to look at anything we write up.

Open Board position: After discussion Jessica Johnson moved to table any action till next month, there was no 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Tony Huffman moved and Cathy Dessert 2<sup>nd</sup> that we fill the vacant position with a Minnesota resident only which carried.

Nancy talked briefly about D & O (Director's & Officers) liability insurance and has received some rather high bids, (\$25,000). She is reaching out to HHI and a few other sources to get some more options.

Committee's discussion: Jessica Johnson moved and Vikki Pfeilsticker 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the new committee rules document as presented and the motion carried.

Next meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup> 7:30 P.M. Jessica moved to adjourn which was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vikki & Carried.