

Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2024- 6:30 P.M.

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

AJ Fetterly, Nancy Robertson

Absent: Jesse DeLong

Treas. Report - Vikki Pfeilsticker moved to approve which was 2nd by Tony Huffman and carried

Minutes from October 15th meeting- Vikki Pfeilsticker moved to approve which was 2nd by Brian Detgen and carried.

County Fair update- Scott updated the situation at Cannon Falls stating that they have a new president who Scott knows personally. Scott called him for an update and future consideration. They are always willing to explore new sources of revenue. They would be willing to meet to discuss future options.

The Cannon Falls city council met and the City and fair are still at odds over the go-cart track. Scott feels that the go-cart track may not survive due to the noise issues. He feels we should have a couple of board members available to meet with the fair to brainstorm ideas with them.

We discussed ship in stalls for the fairs and how we could get more availability for horses coming to race at the fairs.

We talked about pipe gates or other options; Cannon Falls has the biggest need and could become a safety issue.

MRC Rules committee update- Dan reported that it was a disaster, the committee acted on most of the changes before they even discussed our suggestions or concerns. We didn't get enough time and Casey Larson misrepresented our suggestions to the committee.

Ian Marsh joined the meeting at 7:16 and stated he is leaving Park Street Public and starting his own lobbying firm. He is working with a partner that would advocate on the democrat side for us.

He updated us on the election results and stated there will be co-chairs on the committees in the house due to the even split. Rep. Nolan West appears to be the lead for the sports wagering bill. He is very favorable to Running Aces views. Cathy and Ian are meeting with him in a few weeks. Historical Horse Racing could be back on the table this session.

Nancy looked at our contract with Park Street Public which expires January 31, 2025.

Jessica Johnson moved to retain Ian's Marsh's new firm as our lobbyist which was 2nd buy Dan Roland and carried.

Membership discussion- Vikki talked about the schedule for new board member elections. We need to verify the accountants address this year, nominations will be due December 2nd – Requesting nominations for Hall of Fame and caretaker of the year with possible guest speakers of Mike Tanner, Phil Lupran, also Greg Budach talking about Minnesota History a little.

We discussed the need for better communication, emails & website vs. just Facebook.

The Banquet room form finals night was well received by those that came, but was not necessarily communicated that well.

The local YMCA is offering discounted rates for Horsemen next year. AJ is going to check into the availability and rates so we can share it with the horsemen next year.

Charter discussion- Andy from Running Aces could possibly be available to help train or even come to some of the fairs to chart. Natalie and Louie are not necessarily motivated to move forward.

We could possibly post a notice on Facebook or on our website that we are looking for someone.

Scott mentioned the previous contract when Mark Corless was president paid \$25 per race with a 10 race guarantee.

Fridge in the paddock- Vikki will look into options for a fridge/cooler in the paddock, Aces has OK'd the idea as well as a location for it.

The drivers room will get an upgrade with more wardrobes & removing the tiny lockers.

Cathy sent a reminder about changes for LLC's at the US treasury dept.

Cathy moved to adjourn which was 2nd by Vikki & carried.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday December 16th 6:30 P.M.