

Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission

February 20, 2014

Minutes

A meeting of the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014, at Parx Racing and Casino at 12:00 P.M.

In attendance, representing the Commission were Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Commissioner; Jonathan Newman, Commissioner; Walt Remmert, Acting Horse Executive Secretary and Jorge Augusto, Legal Counsel. Representing the PA Department of Agriculture as an Ex-Officio Member of the Commission was Mathew Meals, Deputy Secretary.

Commissioner Sweeney called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Augusto stated that the Commission held an executive session on February 10, 2014; the Commission engaged in a work session, no agency business was transacted. On February 20, 2014, the Commission held an Executive Session in which quasi-judicial deliberations were conducted; no agency business was transacted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney, seconded by Commissioner Newman, and unanimously passed, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014, commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS (STATISTICAL REPORTS)

Commissioner Sweeney requested the statistical highlights for the past month.

Parx Racing

Joe Wilson, Chief Operating Officer, reported the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Mr. Wilson noted that due to the weather over the last few months there have been 70 race card cancellations. The first two of six barns for 2014 will be started in the near future. Mr. Wilson stated that Parx is under a new quarantine as of 02/14/2014 and is working closely with the Department of Agriculture. He also mentioned the 2014 Stakes schedule is being finalized.

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director of PTHA, was not present and no report was given on behalf of the PTHA.

Penn National Race Course

Christopher McErlean, Vice President of Racing for Penn National, reported the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Mr. McErlean noted that racing was cancelled for 02/20/14 due to inclement weather. Mr. McErlean has been very happy with all the cooperation they have been getting from the horsemen during this winter.

Presque Isle Downs & Racetrack

Debbie Howells, Director of Racing for Presque Isle Downs reported the previous month's statistics and year to date totals. Ms. Howells introduced Mr. Jeff Farve, Vice President and General Manager at Presque Isle Downs, and Mr. Joe Billheimer, President and COO.

PA Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director of the PA HBPA, reported that the HBPA would like to follow up on some issues involving staffing and the uniform medication act. Mr. Mostoller stated that the HBPA hopes the Commission staff is in place by April 15, 2014 when horses begin arriving at Presque Isle Downs. Mr. Mostoller added that the Lasix administration needs to be up and running this racing season.

The HBPA would like to discuss the current barn situation at Presque Isle Downs. Commissioner Sweeney asked if such a meeting was set up between the two parties. Mr. Mostoller informed her that a meeting will be scheduled.

Deputy Meals stated that the interview process has begun and that staff should be hired, trained and in place within the next few weeks. Mr. Mostoller asked if there was any news on the money that was appropriated for racing. Deputy Meals reported that Senate Bill 1181 is currently sitting with the Chairman of the House Ag committee; it already passed the Senate. Senate Bill 1181 is expected to move in March, 2014.

The horsemen have committed another \$65,000 this year to PETRL to use for testing.

Pennsylvania Horse Breeders Association

Jeb Hannum, Executive Secretary for the PHBA, reported on the slot revenue transfers to the Breeding Fund along with the end of the year summary for 2013.

RESEARCH

Dr. Uboh of the Pennsylvania Equine Toxicology and Research Lab, and Dr. Robinson of the University of Pennsylvania, gave the following report. The laboratory continues to develop new screening methods for various classes of new drugs. These approaches provide increased flexibility in processing track samples as multiple screening techniques are

simultaneously and independently used. Several research projects are ongoing and progress in a select few is briefly outlined below.

Dr. Guan is continuing to multiplex his methods for detecting peptides and protein-based drugs, and has recently added a new protein-based drug to his repertoire.

Work on cobalt-containing substances is continuing in collaboration with the New Bolton Center Toxicology Laboratory. Validated methods are available to measure cobalt in plasma and urine, and will permit detection of excessive use of cobalt and cobalt-containing products.

On February 11th, 2014, Dr. Robinson and Walt Remmert hosted a Q and A session regarding the new RMTTC thresholds adopted January 1st, 2014 for the Pennsylvania Horsemen Benevolent and Protective Association at Penn National Racecourse.

There are currently nine manuscripts being prepared, five manuscripts are at various stages of the review process, and two manuscripts have been accepted for publication and are at various stages of the publication process.

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

Deborah Tsang, Quality Assurance Officer, reported that all internal blind samples sent to the screening sections of the laboratory this month were correctly identified.

A proficiency set from the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium External Quality Assessment Program, RMTTC EQAP, will be shipped to PETRL the week of February 24, 2014. The proficiency set is prepared by the Canadian Pari-Mutual Association (CPMA) which is a division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The CPMA Laboratory is a Forensic Toxicology laboratory and a recognized Proficiency Testing Provider by the Standards Council of Canada.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.a.(1); a motion to approve the thoroughbred full race card simulcast schedules for the month of March 2014, at Penn National, Parx Racing, and Presque Isle Downs.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.a.(2)¹; a motion to approve the harness full race card simulcast schedules for the month of March 2014, at The Meadows, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, and Harrah's Philadelphia Casino and Racetrack.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b.(1); a motion to approve Penn National's request to send its simulcast signal to Hit the Board, Inc., with walk up locations in the Caribbean and South America.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b.(2); a motion to approve Presque Isle Downs request to conduct a Match Play Promotion on Mountaineer Park's live races during the month of March.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sweeney and seconded by Commissioner Newman and unanimously passed to approve item 5.b. (3); a motion to approve Parx Racing to begin simulcast racing from Miami Valley Racing, formally Lebanon Raceway. Miami Valley is a Harness track in Lebanon, Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Sweeney announced the next commission meeting will be held March 13, 2014, at New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA at 11:30 A.M.

Executive Session: 10:30 A.M. in Allam House.

Public Meeting: 11:30 A.M. in Woerner Amphitheater.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sweeney adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Walt Remmert
Acting Executive Secretary