

## **THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**AUGUST 25, 2020**

*A public business meeting of The State Horse Racing Commission was held at the following date, place and time: Via Telephonic Conference Call on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.*

*Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Redding, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Dr. John Egloff, Thomas Ellis, Russell Jones, Robert Lark, C. Edward Rogers, Michele Ruddy and Dr. Corinne Sweeney were present via telephonic conference call. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto and Marija Kuren.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A quorum of the Commission being present, Chairman Redding called the meeting to order. Chairman Redding noted that the meeting was properly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law. By way of notice, the Commission conducted an executive session to engage in a quasi-judicial deliberation to be adjudicated at the public meeting and engaged in attorney client privilege communication.

Chairman Redding welcomed everyone.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

**1.) MINUTES OF THE July 28, 2020 MEETING** as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

**Motion by:** Commissioner Lark  
**Second by:** Commissioner Ellis  
**Decision:** Passed by unanimous vote.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**2.) RACING FUND JULY FINANCIAL REPORT** – presented by Tracee Gotwalt.

**3.) UPENN QUARTERLY REPORT** - presented by Dr. Mary Robinson

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**4.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for September 2020 for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and The Meadows.**

**Motion By:** Commissioner Egloff  
**Second By:** Commissioner Sweeney  
**Decision:** Passed by unanimous vote.

**5.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for September 2020 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.**

**Motion By:** Commissioner Jones  
**Second By:** Commissioner Ruddy  
**Decision:** Passed by unanimous vote

**RATIFICATIONS**

**6.) Motion to ratify the FY 20/21 Marketing/Promotional Funds Allocation as distributed. (See Attached).**

**Motion By:** Commissioner Breniser  
**Second By:** Commissioner Rogers  
**Decision:** Passed by unanimous vote

**7.) Motion to ratify Post Time change at Harrah's Philadelphia for Friday, September 11, 2020 and Friday, October 2, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 12:25 p.m. (First Post).**

**Motion By:** Commissioner Jones  
**Second By:** Commissioner Ellis  
**Decision:** Passed by unanimous vote

**INDUSTRY REPORTS**

**8.) General Reports.**

- Dale Rapson, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs, advised the Commission that the Stroudsburg OTW which was closed in March due to Covid-19 will be permanently closed. The size, rent and expenses are not supported by the business. However, Pocono is seeking an alternate site to replace Stroudsburg. Handle at Pocono continues on a positive trend. The facility is preparing plans for the upcoming Kentucky Derby. Finally, the implemented Covid-19 safety protocols are being followed with minimal issues.
- Mark Loewe, Meadows, advised the Meadows position was similar to last month. The export handle continues to see positive results while the on-site is down dramatically. The Covid-19 protocols continue to be adhered to with minimal problems. The track continues to take temperature readings from all personnel accessing the backside through the stable gate. The Meadows will offer drive through wagering for the Kentucky Derby.
- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia stated the handle continues to be strong in all areas. Import, export and ADW wagering was up in July 2020 over 2019 and August in trending to see similar results. Plans are being formulating for the Kentucky Derby. There is continued cooperation between all parties, horsemen, track and Commission for adherence to Covid-19 protocols.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, advised the Commission that the track is continuing to see positive wagering results. Due to Covid-19 and the shutdown Parx decided to race in August unlike in years past where the track was closed. This was well received by both

horsemen and the public. Plans are being developed for Kentucky Derby day within the current constraints. One facet of the plan is to set up a structure for the public to come to Parx to make their wagers and then return home. Covid-19 procedures are being followed with no significant issues. Parx reopened their South Philadelphia OTW. Mr. Wilson expressed his appreciation to the PTHA and the Commission for their support and cooperation.

- Eric Johnston, Penn National, stated the results for Penn National were similar to last month. Export handle has increased with on-site handle down. Plans are being developed for Kentucky Derby day under current limitations. Covid-19 protocols are being followed. One change due to the positive jockey test result from Colonial Downs is any jockey from another jurisdiction must quarantine and show a negative test result.
- Sam Beegle, PHHA advised all is well at Pocono and Chester with racing being conducted with full fields. On behalf of Lisa Dunn from the Fair Board, Mr. Beegle provided a Fair Racing update. The fair circuit started in July at Lycoming. To date, ten Standardbred racing programs have been conducted at the fairs with eight remaining. The fairs provide horsemen an opportunity to race during very difficult times. Mr. Beegle expressed his thanks to the Commissioners and the Standardbred Bureau Director for their support.
- Jim Simpson, SBA, advised the Commission that the 2020 Standardbred Sale would not be held at the Farm Show due to Covid-19 restrictions. The sale will be conducted in Timonium at the Fairgrounds. The sale hopes to return to PA in 2021.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, informed the Commission that there will be PA Day at the Races on September 7, 2020 at Parx. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the Breeders will not conduct their annual luncheon. Mr. Sanfratello expressed his thanks to all parties that worked to make the day occur. In addition, he informed the Commission that Northview Pa was being sold to John Green, Well Bourne Farms.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020. The Meeting location is to be determined.

- Executive Session 11:00 A.M.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 P.M.

## **NOTES**

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Chuckas Jr.  
Bureau Director  
Bureau of Thoroughbred Horse Racing

Anthony Salerno  
Bureau Director  
Bureau of Standardbred Racing