

**THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

January 30, 2018

A public business meeting of The State Horse Racing Commission was held at the following date, place and time: FARMSHOW Complex in the Susquehanna room in Harrisburg, PA, Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance were: Acting Chairman Cheryl Cook, Thomas Jay Ellis, C. Edward Rogers, Michele C. Ruddy, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Russell Jones, and Dr. Corinne Sweeney. Also present were Commission legal counsel Brook Duer and Jorge Augusto.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Legal counsel noted that the meeting has been advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law. Legal counsel noted that executive session was conducted at 10:00 a.m. for discussion of potential topics: attorney-client privileged communication; litigation.

Chairman Cook welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

II. NEW BUSINESS: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

(A) 2: Minutes of the December 20, 2017, meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner DeBunda
Second by: Commissioner Sweeney
Passed: Unanimously to accept the December 20, 2017 meeting minutes.

Financials:

(A) 3: Tracee Gotwalt presented the December financial statements.

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
Second by: Commission Ruddy
Passed: Unanimously to accept the December financial statements.

Motions:

(B) 1 (A): February 2018 Simulcast calendars for the 3 Standardbred tracks.

(B) 1 (B): February 2018 Simulcast calendars for the 3 Thoroughbred tracks.

(B) 1 (C): Motion to approve The Meadows request for date change in 2018. Racing on Saturday, August 18 (post time 1:05 pm) and Friday, August 24 (post time 5:30 pm) with no racing on Friday, August 17th and Saturday, August 25th.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney
Second by: Commissioner Rogers
Passed: Unanimously to accept items A-B-C for the various tracks requests for February. See attached agenda.

III. LICENSING AND ADJUDICATIONS

Licensing Matter:

None

Adjudications:

Steven Klesaris – Hibiscus Stables: Appeal

The official result of a “dead heat” issued by the PARX placing Judges is AFFIRMED by the Commission.

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis

Second by: Commissioner Jones

Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Peter G. Giannaris: Appeal of Ruling No. 17089CD – Horse Medication Positive – Methadone

The Ruling No. 17089CD issued by Harrah’s Philadelphia Judges is AFFIRMED by the Commission.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney

Second by: Commissioner Ruddy

Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Pending Appeal Numbers and Status:

Legal Counsel Jorge Augusto provided the Commissioners with an updated report for their binder.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Marketing:

Ms. Eisenbeil spoke to the commission regarding the Pennsylvania Commission booth that was set up for the week at FARMSHOW. The booth had an education rack card, pencils, book marks, pens, stakeholder brochures along with Thoroughbred and Harness tack to show the public the difference between the two breeds. Ms. Eisenbeil and Mr. Klouser the Director of Enforcement did two 30 min kid friendly presentations. The kids got to dress up the jockey’s silks and driver’s colors. Parx Hall of Fame jockey Tony Black was a huge hit and was even given time on Facebook live.

Savvy Group has completed the online surveys and have now moved on to the focus groups. 900 plus participants have completed the online survey. The focus groups will occur in both eastern and western Pennsylvania.

V. INDUSTRY REPORTS

Mr. Steve Koch of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, gave a presentation to the Commission regarding the process for becoming an NTRA accredited track and encouraged all Pennsylvania tracks to do so for the best interest in racing.

Alan Forman, Chairman, THA, spoke to the commission about the Mid Atlantic Thoroughbred Championships which are starting up again this year after few years off. There will be five races in each division running for purse money up to \$400,000 with all the tracks in the region participating including all three tracks in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Foreman also spoke about the Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact.

Mr. Russell Williams, USTA, spoke about the Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact from a Standardbred prospective.

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director, PTHA, informed the commission that he met with Jim Gagliano and is working on putting the chips in all horses at Parx.

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director, PA HBPA, thanked the commission for the amended order on the thoroughbred helmets and vests issue.

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, MSOA, informed the commission that EVH-1 has broken out at the Meadows and racing is shut down until the end of February.

Jim Simpson, President, Hanover Shoe Farm, thanked the commission for getting out the Breeders awards early.

Brian Sanfratello, Executive Director of the PHBA, reported on the following PHBA activities.

1. Monthly newsletter
2. Unique Bella won the 2017 Eclipse for female sprinters.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, at the FARMSHOW Complex at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

- Executive Session 10:00 A.M.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Brett Revington
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Horse Racing