

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 26, 2021

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, January 26, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairperson Cook, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Thomas Ellis, Russell Jones, Robert Lark, C. Edward Rogers, Michele Ruddy, Dr. John Egloff 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, Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order. Chairperson Cook 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 quasi-judicial deliberation to be adjudicated at the public meeting and engaged in attorney client privilege communication.

Chairperson Cook welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2020 Meeting as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT – presented by Tracee Gotwalt. Ms. Gotwalt provided a detailed financial analysis of the State Racing Fund, Commission and Testing Revenues and Expenses, Promotional Expenditures, a Comparative to FY 19/20 and an overview of the Breed-specific funds for the month of December 2020.

3.) STANDARDBRED BREEDERS MARKETING/PROMOTIONAL REPORT- presented by Mike Simpson, Stu Kirshenbaum and Ashley Eisenbeil. The 2019/2020 campaign focused on the importance of the Standardbred Breeders Association program which was reflected by positive job creation and economic impact in the Commonwealth. Mr. Kirshenbaum spoke of the progress made in four key areas:

- a) Earned Media
- b) Robust Marketing/Promotional campaign
- c) Diversification of Social Media platforms
- d) Redesigned SBA Website

Ms. Eisenbeil reported on the continued success of Wager Warriors program. Due to COVID-19, the program transitioned from an on-site program to a virtual program. The emphasis was on information distribution (free PP's), on-line wagering and education on social media platforms. The SBA utilized Facebook to host a one-hour program featuring special guests and educating the public on racing.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

4.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for February 2021 for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and The Meadows.

Motion By: Commissioner Jones
Second By: Commissioner Breniser
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

5.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for February 2021 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

Motion By: Commissioner Rogers
Second By: Commissioner Ellis
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

6.) Motion to ratify the Meadows Racetrack request to modify its Wagering Format. (See Agenda).

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

LICENSING & ADJUDICATIONS

7.) Public Notice of Submitted Petitions to Relocate Non-Primary (OTW) Facilities:

1. Petition of Keystone Turf Club, Inc. for Approval to Relocate the South Philadelphia Race & Sportsbook, Docket No. 2020-42.
2. Petition of Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. for Approval to Relocate the Upper Darby Turf Club, Docket No. 2020-43.
3. Petition of Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. for Approval to Relocate the Oaks Race & Sportsbook, Docket No. 2020-44. In accordance with §189.14 (a)(2) of its regulations, the Commission determined the need for a 30-day written public comment period for the Oaks petition.

INDUSTRY REPORTS

8.) General Reports. Director Salerno recognized the following Industry participants for their reports:

- Eric Johnston, Penn National, was pleased to report the two day per week racing schedule appears to be working. On December 30th, Penn National set a handle record (\$3.18m) for a non-stakes day.
- Mike Zullinger, Pocono Downs, informed the Commission that Pocono Downs was scheduled to open for live racing on February 6th.
- Sam Beegle, PHHA, stated the Horsemen's organization is looking forward to a successful 2021 season with the opening of Pocono Downs on February 6th and Harrah's at Chester on April 2nd.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, provided an update to the PA Breeders fund.

PUBLIC COMMENT

(no public comments received)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021. 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 1:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing