

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 17, 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, November 17, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Redding, 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, 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 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 October 27, 2020 Meeting as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND OCTOBER 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 October 2020.

3.) MSOA MARKETING/PROMOTIONAL REPORT – presented by Jen Miele and Dawnelle Mock. The 2019/20 plan was focused on business analytics and the Pittsburg sports fan targeting individuals who had a propensity to wager. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, many of the plans were placed on hold. The MSOA refocused and developed social media campaigns and focused on the website. The goal for the 1920/21 Marketing plan would be to continue with social media campaigns and return to event based activities to draw fans.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

4.) Motion to approve the 2021 Commission Meeting Schedule.

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

5.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for December 2020 for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and The Meadow

6.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for December 2020 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

Motions # 5 and #6 were combined into one motion.

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

7.) Motion to ratify prior approval of the request by the Meadows Racetrack and Casino to freeze the "Hi 5" Wager until a mandatory payout on November 24, 2020.

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

8.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for Penn National for 2021. (See Agenda)

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

9.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for Parx for 2021. (See Agenda)

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

10.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for Presque Isle Downs for 2021. (See Agenda)

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

11.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for the Meadows for 2021. (See Agenda)

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

12.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs for 2021.
(See Agenda)

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

13.) Motion to approve Operational Matters (Live race days, Officials, Takeout Rates, Wagering Format, Simulcast In/Out) for Harrah's Philadelphia for 2021.
(See Agenda)

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

LICENSING MATTERS:

14.) Motion to approve the annual Vendor License renewal for the following organization:

- American Teletimer Corporation, Docket No. 2020-41

Motion By: Commissioner DeBunda
Second By: Commissioner Ellis
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

15.) Motion to approve the Electronic Wagering Petitions renewals for 2021 for the following companies:

- Chester Down and Marina, LLC (d/b/a Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack), Docket No. 2020-37
- Downs Racing, LP (d/b/a Mohegan Sun Pocono), Docket No. 2020-38
- Mountain Laurel Racing, Inc. and Washington Trotting Association, LLC (d/b/a The Meadows Racetrack & Casino), Docket No. 2020-39
- Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. & Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (d/b/a Parx Racetrack & Casino), Docket No. 2020-35
- Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association, LLC & Penn National Turf Club, LLC, Docket No. 2020-36
- PID, LLC, Docket No. 2020-40

Motion By: Commissioner DeBunda
Second By: Commissioner Lark
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

INDUSTRY REPORTS

16.) General Reports. Director Salerno reported on two items. The first was an update on the Covid-19 situation which is spiking across the country and in Pennsylvania. He reiterated the steps that have been taken to mitigate the spread and requested continued support by all racing industry participants. He noted that racing has had a few incidents to this point but has been extremely fortunate. Regarding the second issue, Director Salerno recognized Mark Loewe's retirement from the Meadows. He expressed that Mark was an asset to racing and would be missed. The Commission wished him well on his retirement.

- Mark Loewe thanked the Commission for the kind words and stated it has been a pleasure working with the Commission. The business at the Meadows has been on a rollercoaster ride. The Meadows has experienced both positive months and negative months. Currently, revenues are up approximately 4% but wagering on the import and export handle are down.
- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia, reported overall the track has seen positives in their handle. Export wagering is up 21%; Import handle is up 30%; Live handle is down ½% and ADW handle is up almost 200%.
- Mr. Zullinger, Pocono Downs, reported Pocono experienced a positive year despite the effects of Covid-19. The live meet ended seeing positives in wagering.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, reported daily average wagering is up approximately 50% so Parx plans to maintain the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday live race schedule.
- Eric Johnston, Penn National, reported the export handle has been extremely strong but import wagering has been slow to return to previous levels.
- Jim Simpson, SBA, advised the Standardbred Sale was completed at Timonium. The results reflect a decline of approximately 23%. Mr. Simpson stated the results were not good but considering the circumstances could have been much worse. The sale looks forward to Harrisburg to conduct the sale in 2021.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, advised the Commission that the Breeders were working on the stallion directory and working on the stallion auction which is held in January. In addition, he noted that a few nice stallions will be coming to Pennsylvania for the 2021 season.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 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 2:10 P.M.

NOTES

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing