

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2019

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, November 25, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Acting Chairperson Cheryl Cook, C. Edward Rogers, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Russell Jones, Thomas Jay Ellis, Dr. and Michele C. Ruddy. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto and Marija Kuren. Commissioner Robert F. Lark, Commissioner Darryl Breniser, Commissioner Dr. John Egloff and Commissioner Salvatore DeBunda were not present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A quorum of the Commission being present, Acting Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order. Acting Chairperson Cook noted that the meeting was properly advertised in accordance with the Sunshine Law. 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.

Acting Chairperson Cook welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2019 MEETING as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT – presented by Thomas Chuckas.

2A.) MOHEGAN SUN: Downs at Lehigh Valley (OTW)- Tony Carlucci, Frank Palmieri, Ron Chrzan and Dale Rapson made a presentation to renovate the Downs at Lehigh Valley (OTW) to allow for the implementation of Sports Wagering. Upgrades include an amended floor plan, increased security, a modified admission policy and an increase in equipment. In addition, Mr. Rapson provided an update on Pocono Downs Backstretch Modification program. He advised the Commission the plan was on the schedule presented to the Commission previously.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

3.) Motion to approve 2020 Commission Meeting Schedule.

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

4.) Motion to approve simulcast calendars for December 2019, for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and The Meadows.

Motion by: Commissioner Jones
 Second by: Commissioner Ellis
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

5.) Motion to approve simulcast calendars for December 2019 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

Motion by: Commissioner Jones
 Second by: Commissioner Ellis
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

6.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for Penn National:

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second by: Commissioner Ruddy
 Decision: Passed by Unanimous vote to accept all six Operational Requests for 2020. See Agenda.

7.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for Parx:

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second by: Commissioner Rogers
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all six Operational Requests for 2020. See Agenda.

8.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for Presque Isle Downs:

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney
 Second by: Commissioner Jones
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all six Operational requests for 2020. See Agenda.

A request was made by the HBPA to amend the Commission's previous motion to reflect that final approval is pending HBPA approval of Simulcast Out Schedule for 2020.

Motion by: Commissioner Jones
 Second by: Commissioner Ellis
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote.

9.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for The Meadows:

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second By: Commissioner Ruddy
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all six Operational Requests for 2020. See Agenda.

10.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs:

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second by: Commissioner Sweeney
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all six Operational Requests for 2020. See Agenda.

11.) Motion to approve the Operational Requests for Harrah's Philadelphia:

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second by: Commissioner Ruddy
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all six Operational Requests for 2020. See Agenda.

LICENSING MATTERS:

RACE MEET LICENSE RENEWAL (3 YEAR TERM)- Presented by Jorge Augusto.

12. License Renewal Chester Downs and Marina, LLC (d/b/a Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack) 2019-3
13. License Renewal Downs Racing, LP (d/b/a Mohegan Sun Pocono) 2019-25
14. License Renewal Mountain Laurel Racing, Inc. and Washington Trotting Association, LLC (d/b/a The Meadows Racetrack & Casino) 2019-31
15. License Renewal Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. & Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (d/b/a Parx Racetrack & Casino) 2019-4
16. License Renewal Mountainview Thoroughbred Racing Association, LLC & Penn National Turf Club, LLC 2019-26

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis
 Second by: Commissioner Sweeney
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all 5 renewals of the Race Meet Licenses.

ELECTRONIC WAGERING PETITION FOR 2020: LICENSE RENEWAL

17. License Renewal Chester Downs and Marina, LLC (d/b/a Harrah's Philadelphia Casino & Racetrack) 2019-3
18. License Renewal Downs Racing, LP (d/b/a Mohegan Sun Pocono) 2019-25
19. License Renewal Mountain Laurel Racing, Inc. and Washington Trotting Association, LLC (d/b/a The Meadows Racetrack & Casino) 2019-31
20. License Renewal Bensalem Racing Association, Inc. & Keystone Turf Club, Inc. (d/b/a Parx Racetrack & Casino) 2019-4
21. License Renewal Mountainview thoroughbred Racing Association, LLC & Penn National Turf Club, LLC 2019-26

22. PID, LLC (d/b/a Presque Isle Downs & Casino) 2019-6

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney
 Second by: Commissioner Jones
 Decision: Passed by unanimous vote to accept all 6 renewals of the Electronic Wagering petition and license renewals for 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

23. **OOCT Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas reported that 65 OOCT tests (Penn National 27, Parx 38) have been completed since the last Commission Meeting.
24. **Equine Racing Group Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas reported that the Equine Racing Group has met and addressed a multitude of issues, the use of Lasix, Workouts, Veterinary Practices and Horse Identification. The Group will provide the Commission recommendations for consideration at the December Meeting.
25. **PHRA Branding and Research Update.** Ashley Eisenbeil and Pete Peterson from PHRA along with Zach Gibson and Greg Carney from Pavone presented a status report on the state-wide branding campaign. Updates were provided for website activity, TV advertising, social media and a pro-active PR campaign.

INDUSTRY REPORTS**26.) General Report**

Brian Sanfratello gave a review of the Pa. Breeders Assoc. report.

Jim Simpson provided a summary of the 81st Annual Standardbred Horse Sale. The sale was well attended. The numbers reflect the highest average sale price and the second largest gross sales in the history of the sale.

Stu Kershenbaum from Keystone Films provided an update on the earned media the Racing Industry has acquired based on Media buys.

PUBLIC COMMENT -None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chairperson Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at the FARMSHOW Complex in the Susquehanna Room at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

- Executive Session 10:30 A.M.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing