

**THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**September 26, 2017**

*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, September 26, 2017 at 1:00 P.M.*

*Commissioners in attendance were: Chairman Russell Redding, Thomas Jay Ellis, C. Edward Rogers, Michele C. Ruddy, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Dr. John Egloff, Robert Lark, Dr. Corinne Sweeny, and Russell Jones by phone. 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 11:30 a.m. for discussion of potential topics: Personnel matters; attorney-client privileged communication; litigation; commission adjudications.*

Chairman Redding welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

**I. OLD BUSINESS**

Marketing:

Ms. Eisenbeil reported on advisory committee updates and notified the Commission that the next meeting will be October 11, 2017. Ms. Eisenbeil let the commission know that the 4-H and Harness racing program went very well with 48 4-H children over the three fairs who learned and experienced harness racing up close and personal. Right now, there are many educational videos being recorded to show the integrity and welfare of racing.

The Commission issued a letter in response to Mr. Janney of The Jockey Club from the statements he made at the 2017 Roundtable Conference on matters pertaining to Pennsylvania Racing.

Secretary Redding also sent a letter to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Chairs in response to the House Republicans "Taxpayer Budget" which would take a reported \$27 million from the State Racing Fund.

**II. NEW BUSINESS: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**Minutes of the August 31, 2017**, meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis

Second by: Commissioner DeBunda

Passed: Unanimously to accept the August 31, 2017 meeting minutes.

**Minutes of the September 14, 2017**, special meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers

Second by: Commissioner Egloff

Passed: Unanimously to accept the September 14, 2017, special meeting minutes.

Financials:

**Tracee Gotwalt presented the August financial statements.**

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney  
Second by: Commission Ellis  
Passed: Unanimously to accept the August financial statements.

**FY18-19 Budget Submission approval: Commission Budget**

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers  
Second by: Commission DeBunda  
Passed: Unanimously to accept the Commission Budget for FY18-19 Budget Submission.

**FY18-19 Budget Submission approval: Testing Budget**

Motion by: Commissioner DeBunda  
Second by: Commissioner Rogers  
Passed: Unanimously to accept the Testing Budget for FY18-19 Budget Submission.

Commissioner DeBunda requested a copy of the Pharmacological and Forensic research plan.

Motions:

**6 (1) A:** October 2017 Simulcast calendars for the 3 Standardbred tracks.

**6 (1) B:** October 2017 Simulcast calendars for the 3 Thoroughbred tracks.

**6 (1) C:** Parx request to send their signal to Derby Wars Horse Racing contest.

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

New Regulations:

Standardbred: Safety Equipment

- Helmets

Motion by: Commissioner Breniser  
Second by: Commissioner Rogers  
Passed: To require the use of Safety Helmets for Harness Racing. Commissioner DeBunda abstained.

- Vests

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers  
Second by: Commissioner Egloff  
Failed: Motion is denied requiring Safety Vests. Commissioner DeBunda abstained.

Thoroughbred: Safety Equipment

- Helmets and Vests

Motion by: Commissioner DeBunda  
Second by: Commissioner Ellis  
Passed: To require the use of Safety Helmets and Vests for Thoroughbred racing. Commissioner Egloff and Commissioner Lark abstained.

Joint:

None this meeting

### **III. LICENSING AND ADJUDICATIONS**

Licensing Matter:

No matters this month

Adjudications:

No matters this month

Pending Appeal Numbers and Status:

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

### **IV. INDUSTRY REPORTS**

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director, PTHA, informed the commission on what a great day Parx' Derby day turned out. The weather was fantastic and there were over 11,000 people that came out to enjoy the races with 3 million dollars in purses. Bob Baffert came to Parx with his horse "West Coast" who won the 1 Million Derby race. The handle for the day came in at 8 million dollars even without a Triple Crown winner in the field. Special thanks to the staff for all the hard work in promoting the PA Derby and the excellent TV coverage.

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director, PA HBPA, talked about Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Presque Isle Downs for the Masters which is Grade II. Presque Isle has the second highest handle ever in Presque Isle since 2007. Mr. Mostoller also congratulated Parx for a job well done for Derby Day.

Kim Hankins, Executive Director, MSOA, spoke about the Fair Finals that are coming up at the Meadows on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> with the

first post time at 1:00 p.m. It will also be a family fun day and Pink out with the ever-famous pony races. Mr. Hankins thanked Kevin Decker for all the help for the fair finals.

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

1. Monthly newsletter
2. Spoke about PA Day at the Races on September 2<sup>nd</sup> which went very well. The horsemen and PTHA paid for most of the \$800,000 purses that day which helped make the day possible and a great success. Thanks to Mr. Joe Wilson and Parx for all their assistance.
3. A filly "First Hand Report" beat the boys in the Alphabet Soup race.
4. The third annual Stallion directory is being put together to be sent out.
5. It is important to remember that Breeders must make sure they put their horses in the PA restricted races.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bryan Langlois spoke to the commission and thanked the quick acting vets at Parx.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at the FARMSHOW Complex at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

- Executive Session      11:30 A.M.
- Regular Session        1:00 P.M.

**VII. 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