

**THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**March 29, 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, Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.*

*Commissioners in attendance were: Chairman Russell Redding, Thomas Jay Ellis, C. Edward Rogers, Darryl Breniser, Russell Jones, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Dr. John Egloff, Salvatore DeBunda, Michele Ruddy and Robert Lark. 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 11:00 a.m. to engage in quasi-judicial deliberations regarding the adjudications, attorney-client privilege communication and litigation matters.*

Chairman Redding welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

**I. Executive Session**

**II. NEW BUSINESS: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**(A) 2: Minutes of the February 27, 2018**, meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis

Second by: Commissioner Rogers

Passed: Unanimously to accept the February 27, 2018 meeting minutes.

Financials:

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

Motion by: Commissioner Lark

Second by: Commission DeBunda

Passed: Unanimously to accept the February financial statements.

Motions:

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

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

**(B) 1 (C):** Motion to approve Penn Nationals request to send simulcast of live races to Favorites at Egg Harbor Township located at 6055 Blackhorse Pike, Egg Harbor Twp., New Jersey, 08234. All wagers commingled through Penn National Pools through Sportech QDC East Hub.

**(B) 1 (D):** Motion to approve Presque Isle Downs request to offer drive thru wagering for the Kentucky Derby on May 5, 2018, Preakness on May 19, 2018 and Belmont Day on June 9, 2018 and also a \$5.00 match play coupon to be distributed to patrons on Kentucky Derby Day.

**(B) 1 (E):** Motion to approve Harrah's Philadelphia request for Betfair Games Limited to accept exchange wagers on Harrah's live racing during the 2018 season.

**(B) 1 (F):** Motion to approve Harrah's Philadelphia request to move Opening day to Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate completion of the racetrack resurfacing project which has been impacted by weather. The post time will be 6:30 p.m. on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by: Commissioner Jones

Second by: Commissioner DeBunda

Passed: Unanimously to accept items A-B-C-D-E-F for the various tracks. See attached agenda.

**(B) 2 (A):** Ratification of Penn Nationals request to adjust post times for 2018.

Motion by: Commissioner Lark

Second by: Commissioner Sweeney

Passed: Unanimously to accept items A for Penn National. See attached agenda.

New Regulations:

Thoroughbred: None

Standardbred: None

Joint: None

A motion to direct the Commission Staff to draft legislation to enable the commission to join the Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact separately by each breed.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney

Second by: Commissioner DeBunda

Passed: To have Commission staff draft legislation to enable the commission to join the Interstate Anti-Doping and Drug Testing Standards Compact separately by each breed. Commissioner Ellis voted against.

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

Licensing Matter:

None

Adjudications:

**David L Posey – Disqualification of “Jack O Liam” from 7<sup>th</sup> race at Penn National on 11/09/2017. Docket No. RACINGPN-2017-NM-16.**

**The Board of Judges decision to disqualify horse “Jack O Liam” is AFFIRMED by the Commission.**

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney  
Second by: Commissioner Jones  
Passed: Unanimously approved to accept the Board of Judge’s decision.

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 informed the Commission that the marketing research was completed by the SAVVY Group on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The marketing research data shows that the key trigger points for prospective customers are more promotions with chances to win, festival events with music, food and family fun and images that show excitement at the track. Digital media mostly via Facebook is where most consumers find their media. This research will be used to develop an effective statewide branding campaign for Pennsylvania’s breeding and racing industry.

Through Ms. Eisenbeil, the Marketing Advisory committee recommended and sough a motion to approve a grant to the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association (Equine Coalition) for \$825,000.00 to facilitate the creative branding development and media buys.

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers  
Second by: Commissioner DeBunda  
Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners to approve a grant to the Pennsylvania Horse Racing Association (Equine Coalition) for \$825,000.00 to facilitate the creative branding development and media buys.

**V. INDUSTRY REPORTS**

Sam Elliot, Racing Director, Parx, gave a tribute to Jockey Jose Flores who passed away.

Michael Ballezzi, Executive Director, PTHA, spoke about the great fund-raising effort that has gone on for Jockey Jose Flores family which was currently over \$80,000.

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

1. Monthly newsletter
2. When the Annual meeting is on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Awards banquet is June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bryan Langlois spoke to the commission about "chase truck" regulations; he requested results of out of competition testing and the status of the NTRA applications for the Thoroughbred tracks.

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at the FARMSHOW Complex in the Susquehanna room at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

- Executive Session 11:00 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