

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 29, 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, June 29, 2021 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. Sweeney and Dr. John Egloff 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 May 25, 2021 Meeting as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND MAY 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 May 2021.

3.) PARX PRESENTATION: Relocation Oaks Race and Sports Book- presented by Joe Wilson and Mark Stewart, Esq. Parx is proposing to move the OTW to East Whiteman Township in conjunction with Chickie's & Pete's. The plan will create synergies with this top tiered sports bar and racing. The planned relocation and partnership will reinvigorate the off-track betting operations. No public comment was received regarding the relocation petition. The Parx team outlined the revised OTW model, walked through the project overview. The overview focused on signage and a detailed analysis of the floor plan. Pending regulatory approvals, the plan would be to launch the Race and Sports Book at the end of 2021. At this point, the Commissioners asked questions regarding revenues and purse contributions.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

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

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

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

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

6.) Motion to ratify the approval for the Meadows to change three (3) Friday post times from 12:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 16, July 30 and August 20th.

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

7.) Motion to approve Bensalem Racing Association, Inc's request to relocate the Oaks Race and sports Book.

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

INDUSTRY REPORTS

8.) General Reports. Director Salerno updated the Commission regarding enforcement action at the Meadows. The Commission staff searched numerous vehicles and barns. Nothing of substance was found. These enforcement actions will continue through the year.

Director Chuckas reported in the last month, enforcement action was taken at both Penn National and Parx. This enforcement action consisted of vehicle searches, barn searches and vet trailer searches. In addition, Out of Competition Testing was conducted at both Penn and Parx and the preliminary reports indicate very minor infractions. There was nothing of substance.

Director Salerno recognized the following Industry participants for their reports:

- Eric Johnston, Penn National, advised on July 9th Penn will be conducting Ostrich and Camel races which is a huge fan favorite.

- Matt Ennis, Presque Isle Downs, stated that PID opening day was July 5th with spectators in attendance. Pre-Covid areas which had been closed are re-opening and purse projections are better than anticipated.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, advised wagering has been strong and very pleased with the success of the Philly Big 5 (pick 5 wager).
- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia, advised the Commission that the handle has been strong. Harrah's has had two (2) one-million dollar handle days for the first time in seven (7) years. The track is expecting a big Fourth of July weekend focusing on racing and family events.
- Scott Lishia, Meadows, outlined upcoming events focusing on Adios weekend, July 31st, Veteran's Day and Career Day, July 20th. He spoke about the great partnership with the MSOA and expressed his appreciation to Kim Hankins and his staff,
- Russell Williams, SBA, stated breeding is extremely busy at this point and it appears it will be a record setting year in Pennsylvania.
- Mike Zullinger, Pocono Downs, advised the Commission that the track was beginning preparations for the Sun Stakes in August.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, stated that the Commonwealth budget was finished and there were no funds to be taken from the RHDTF. He informed the Commission that August 23rd will be PA Day at the Races at Parx and thanked the PTHA and Parx for their support.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Redding announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 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 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing