

## **THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**February 25, 2020**

*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, Monday, January 27, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.*

*Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Russell Redding, C. Edward Rogers, Russell Jones, Thomas Jay Ellis, Robert F. Lark, Darryl Breniser, Dr. John Egloff were present. Commissioner Salvatore DeBunda and Dr. Corinne Sweeney were present via phone in. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto and Marija Kuren. Commissioner Michele C. Ruddy was 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.

Chairmen Redding welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

**1.) MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2019 MEETING** as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**2.) RACING FUND NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT** – presented by Tracee Gotwalt.

**3.) UPENN RESEARCH UPDATE-** Dr. Robinson presented an overview of UPenn's research and accomplishments for the year. Dr. Robinson stated that her Lab had three Manuscripts published in 2019 and three accepted for publication. There are also two manuscripts in the review process. The lab also submitted one grant to the Grayson Jockey Club for their research work helping the Racing Commission.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

### **4.) Motion to approve simulcast calendars for February 2020, for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan sun at Pocono downs and the Meadows.**

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

### **5.) Motion to approve simulcast calendars for February 2020, for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.**

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**6.) OOC Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas reported that out-of-competition testing is gearing up and anticipates 100 tests by March 2020.

**7.) Equine Racing Group Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas presented that the final Equine Racing Group recommendations were motioned to remain Status Quo. Commissioner Jones dissention on the vote was noted that if we do not move forward on doing away with all race day medication we will be falling behind the industry.

## **INDUSTRY REPORTS**

**8.) General Reports.** Commissioner Ellis proposed a resolution that this Board oppose the Governor's plan to remove the \$204,000,000 from the Race Horse Development Trust Fund with the application of that money to a scholarship program for those attending Pa. State Colleges. Commissioner Ellis further stated the Board is not opposed to a scholarship program but does not want to pit the Pa. Horse Racing industry against the educational system. With that being said, I would like to propose that resolution.

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

Chairmen Redding stated that the Commissioners and the Horsemen present need to tell the story of Horse Racing in Pa. to help the public become more aware of the Industry.

Sam Beegle from PHHA spoke on behalf of their assoc. stating that if the Governors proposal to eliminate the Race Horse Development Trust Fund is passed it will decimate the industry.

Mike Simpson from the Standardbred Breeders spoke to support Sam Beegle from the PHHA.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** -None.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Redding announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The Meeting will be held at the Dept. of Agriculture Bldg. ROOM 309. 2301 North Cameron St. Harrisburg, PA 17110

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **NOTES**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno  
Bureau Director  
Bureau of Standardbred Racing