

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 30, 2020

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 30, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A quorum of the Commission being present, Acting Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order. Chairman 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 Cook welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2020 MEETING as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

3.) Motion to ratify the actions taken by the Thoroughbred Bureau Director and the Standardbred Bureau Director to resume racing at Parx, Penn National, Presque Isle Downs, Mohegan Sun @ Pocono Downs, Harrah's Philadelphia and the Meadows. (See June 30,2020 Public Agenda)

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

4.) Motion to approve Temporary Waiver Orders:

- License Renewal Time-Period Waiver (7 Pa. Code §185.10)

Motion By: Commissioner Rogers
Second By: Commissioner Ruddy
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

- Qualifying Races Extension Time-period Waiver (7 Pa. Code, §205.321)

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser
Second By: Commissioner Jones
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

- Breath Analyzer Requirements (7 Pa. Code, §203.5)

Motion By: Commissioner Ruddy
Second By: Commissioner Sweeney
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

OLD BUSINESS: None

RACING RESUMPTION & RECOVERY: RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

- Director Chuckas provided an update regarding Commission staff and Industry activities:
 - The Department of Health and the Office of the Governor approved the Covid-19 safety protocols and procedures that were submitted by the Commission and the Racing entities with the support of the Horsemen's organizations. The approvals permitted live racing to resume in Pennsylvania.
 - As of June 30, 2020, five (5) racetracks, two (2) Thoroughbred and three (3) Standardbred are open and operational for live racing with no spectators. Presque Isle Downs is scheduled to begin racing in July.
 - Overall, the re-openings have proceeded smoothly with minor issues. There have been no issues of substance. The goal of all parties, Commission, Racetracks and Horsemen is to operate safely and follow the established safety protocols. The parties recognize that the positive gains will require a continued collaborative effort from all the participants.
- Bureau Director Salerno reported that the Commission received one public inquiry regarding Standardbred racing at the Fairs.
 - There are 108 Agricultural Fairs of which 73 have cancelled at this time.
 - There are 15 fairs that provide Standardbred racing in conjunction with the Agricultural fairs. Nine cancelled Agricultural fairs wish to conduct Standardbred racing which will require a waiver from the Office of the Governor. There are 5 locations that conduct 2 days of Standardbred racing that are not impacted by the cancellation of the Agricultural fairs.
 - Lisa Dunn, President of the Fair Association, in conjunction with the appropriate fair boards and the Horsemen's Associations (PHHA & MSOA), will be submitting a

single waiver request to the Governor to allow for Standardbred racing at 9 fair locations that the Agricultural fairs have been cancelled.

- **Motion to support the efforts of the Fair Association, Fair Boards and the Horsemen’s Associations to have Standardbred racing at the 9 fair locations where the Agricultural fair was cancelled.**

Motion By: Commissioner Breniser
Second By: Commissioner DeBunda
Decision: Passed by unanimous vote

INDUSTRY REPORTS.

5.) General Reports.

- Sam Beegle, PHHA, expressed his thanks to the Commission and the Industry for the efforts to resume racing and the work on fair racing.
- Kim Hankins, MSOA, thanked the Bureau Directors and the Commission for their efforts to resume racing.
- Mike Ballezzi, PTHA, thanked the Commission, President of the PTHA and Parx for their efforts to resume racing.
- Dale Rapson, Pocono Downs, expressed his appreciation to PHHA for their support to resume racing. In addition, he advised the Commission of Pocono’s mask policy and its enforcement.
- Mark Loewe, Meadows, thanked the Commission and advised the Commission of the Meadows strict enforcement of the Covid-19 Safety protocols.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, thanked the Commission and staff for all their hard work to reopen racing.
- Eric Johnston, Penn National, thanked all parties for their efforts and expressed his thanks to the Horsemen for their support.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, thanked the Commission and the Bureau Directors for all their efforts to get racing up and operational. In addition, he expressed his appreciation to the Horsemen’s groups for working together and support of the PA Breeders program and PA Day at the Races.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acting Chairperson Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020. The Meeting will be held at the Dept. of Agriculture Building, 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 1:26 P.M.

NOTES

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing