

**THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

**February 27, 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, Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.*

*Commissioners in attendance were: Acting Chairman Cheryl Cook, Thomas Jay Ellis, C. Edward Rogers, Darryl Breniser, Russell Jones, Dr. Corinne Sweeney, Dr. John Egloff, by phone Salvatore DeBunda and Robert Lark. Also present were Commission legal counsel 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 Cook welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

**I. Public Hearing**

Ejection Hearing of Gina Perri from Penn National on January 31, 2018.

**II. Executive Session**

**III. NEW BUSINESS: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**(A) 2: Minutes of the January 30, 2018**, meeting were emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney  
Second by: Commissioner Egloff  
Passed: Unanimously to accept the January 30, 2018 meeting minutes.

Financials:

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

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers  
Second by: Commission Jones  
Passed: Unanimously to accept the January financial statements.

Motions:

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

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

**(B) 1 (C):** Motion to approve Harrah's Philadelphia post time for 2018 season.

**(B) 1 (D):** Motion to approve The Meadows request for permission to conduct outdoor wagering at their Harmer off-track wagering facility in the following dates: Friday, May 4, 2018 (Kentucky Oaks Day), Saturday, May 5, 2018 (Kentucky Derby Day), Saturday, May 19, 2018 (Preakness Day), and Saturday, June 9, 2018 (Belmont Day).

**(B) 1 (E):** Motion to approve Meadows Live Racing Schedule for 192 days for 2018.

**(B) 1 (F):** Motion to approve \$12,500 for fair operational expenses.

**(B) 1 (G):** Motion to approve \$5,000 for fair promotional expenses.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney

Second by: Commissioner Egloff

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

**(B) 2 (A):** Ratification of Penn Nationals request to offer live races for online handicapping contests on Derbywars.com until December 31, 2018.

**(B) 2 (B):** Ratification of Penn Nationals request to run 9 races per day, effective, Friday, February 16 for the next sixteen (16) days making up for two race days lost to weather.

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis

Second by: Commissioner Rogers

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

#### New Regulations:

##### Thoroughbred:

**(B) 3 (A):** Lasix Administration- 2-year-old horses: Docket #2018-1

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney

Second by: Commissioner Ellis

Passed: To permit the use of Lasix in 2-year-old horses for Thoroughbred racing. Two abstentions from Commissioner Breniser and Commissioner Egloff.

##### Standardbred:

**(B) 3 (B):** Schedule of Therapeutic Medications: Docket # 2018-4

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers

Second by: Commissioner Breniser

Passed: To adopt the Schedule of Therapeutic Medications established by the RTMC. Two abstentions from Commissioner DeBunda and Commissioner Jones

##### Joint:

**(B) 3 (C):** Administrative Hearing Bond: Docket # 2018-2

Motion by: Commissioner Jones

Second by: Commissioner Breniser

Passed: To require the submission of a \$750 bond when requesting an appeal for an administrative hearing.

**(B) 3 (D):** Ejection/Denial of Admission Hearing Procedures.  
Amended Docket # 2018-3

Motion by: Commissioner Ellis  
Second by: Commissioner Rogers  
Passed: To adopt an amended order for Ejection/Denial of Admission Hearing procedures.

#### **IV. LICENSING AND ADJUDICATIONS**

Licensing Matter:

None

Adjudications:

**Ronald J. Burke – Disqualification of “Front Circle” from 3<sup>rd</sup> race at Meadows on 09/13/2017. Docket No. RACINGME-2017-NM-14.**

**The Board of Judges decision to disqualify the horse “Front Circle” and move it to fourth position is AFFIRMED by the Commission.**

Motion by: Commissioner Jones  
Second by: Commissioner Sweeney  
Passed: Approved by the Commissioners with two abstentions from Commissioner DeBunda and Commissioner Lark.

**Gina Perri: Notice of Ejection from Penn National on January 31, 2018. Docket No. RACINGPN-2018-N**

**The Ejection by Penn National dated January 31, 2018 for one (1) year is AFFIRMED.**

Motion by: Commissioner Rogers  
Second by: Commissioner Ellis  
Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

Pending Appeal Numbers and Status:

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

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

Marketing:

Ms. Eisenbeil informed the Commission that the Savvy Group has concluded their focus groups and will be presenting their findings on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. All the information she receives will be shared with the commissioners.

Delaware Valley University sent a proposal to the Commission to conduct an Equine Economic study and it was discussed by the Advisory Committee and recommended that the Commission proceed with the study.

Motion to approve \$43,000 for the Equine Economic Study by Delaware Valley University.

Motion by: Commissioner Breniser  
Second by: Commissioner Jones  
Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

The Industry website will be run and maintained by the Equine Coalition going forward. This is a positive solution for timeliness and content issues. The Equine Coalition will have access to all the information from Savvy Group. A grant will be given to them for \$150,000 to run the industry website.

Motion to approve \$150,000 marketing grant to Equine Coalition to construct and maintain the industry website.

Motion by: Commissioner Sweeney  
Second by: Commissioner Rogers  
Passed: Unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

## **VI. INDUSTRY REPORTS**

Sam Beegle, President, PHHA, asked for the Commission to do something about Fingerprints at every renewal. He was informed that fingerprints only need to happen when you first get a license and then only every 3 renewals or 9 years.

Todd Mostoller, Executive Director, PA HBPA, asked the Commissioners again to consider the use of cash or credit cards.

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

1. Monthly newsletter
2. Pa bred purses at Parx are figured out for 2018.
3. Unique Bella won her first graded stakes race she should be a very big player for the 2018 racing season.
4. The PA Bred Horses that win need to be showcased more.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018, at the FARMSHOW Complex in the Susquehanna room at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

- Executive Session 10:00 A.M.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

**IX. 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