

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2021

A public business meeting of The State Horse Racing Commission was held at the following date, place and time: In-Person, PDA Room 309 and Via Telephonic Conference Call on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairperson Cook, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Thomas Ellis, Russell Jones, Robert Lark, C. Edward Rogers, Michele Ruddy, Dr. Corinne Sweeney and Dr. John Egloff were present. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto and Marija Kuren.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A quorum of the Commission being present, Chairperson Cook called the meeting to order. Chairperson Cook 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.

Chairperson Cook welcomed everyone.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) MINUTES OF THE JULY 27, 2021 Meeting as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2.) RACING FUND JULY FINANCIAL REPORT – presented by Jason Dunsavage. Mr. Dunsavage provided a detailed financial analysis of the State Racing Fund, Commission and Testing Revenues and Expenses, Promotional Expenditures, a Comparative to FY 20/21 and an overview of the Breed-specific funds for the month of July 2021.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

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

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

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

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

5.) Motion to ratify previous approval of the Meadows request to change its Friday post times from 12:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. starting Friday September 17, 2021 thru and including Friday, November 26, 2021.

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

6.) Motion to approve the request of Harrah's Philadelphia to change Post Time for Friday, September 10, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

INDUSTRY REPORTS

7.) Harness Fairs Report – presented by Director Anthony Salerno. Director Salerno advised that 14 fairs conducted Standardbred racing over 24 days. The fair program lost 6 programs due to rain outs. At this time, there are 5 remaining fair race programs to be conducted.

8.) General Reports

Director Salerno recognized the following industry participants for their reports:

- Eric Johnston, Penn National, thanked the Commission for approving six additional live racing days for the 2021 season and had no further report.
- Matt Ennis, Presque Isle Downs, stated that the meet was progressing very well. Export handle was strong up about 25% over 2020 export numbers. The on-site handle was down 8% from 2019. The marketing efforts have been well received oriented to family events and food trucks.
- Joe Wilson, Parx, advised that Parx has been and will continue to be extremely busy with major racing events. PA Day at the Races, Owners Day and the Smarty Jones were very successful. PA Derby Day is fast approaching with 2 Grade 1 races (Derby & the Cotillion), one Grade 2 and two Grade 3 races. Parx is expecting a very good day.

- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia, advised the Commission that Harrah's is preparing for September 10th, its 15-year anniversary. Major races and events are planned for the evening. Harrah's is expecting a large crowd and significant handle.
- Scott Lishia, Meadows, advised the Commission that the Meadows had to deal with serious weather-related issues. He expressed deep appreciation to the Horsemen and the Judges for working collaboratively to deal with the weather and successfully completing the racing cards. The Meadows will be closed for racing for one week, September 5th thru September 13th.
- Kim Hankins, MSOA, gave a positive update regarding Adios Day. In addition, he agreed with Mr. Lishia's comments about the Horsemen, Commission and Track working together to conduct the live meet in bad weather.
- Sam Beegle, PHHA, provided a positive review for Pocono and the Sun Stakes. The racing and track event were well received. In addition, he advised that State Representative, Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Stan Saylor was in attendance and gave a brief speech.
- Mike Zullinger, Pocono Downs, provided the Commission with a review of the Sun Stakes. The handle was excellent at \$1,057,000. The European ADW wagering was \$120,000. The day and events were well received by the attendees.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, talked about how successful PA Day at the races was for all parties. Wagering and attendance was strong. He discussed the PHBA support for the new proposed slaughter bill and steps his organization was undertaking to assist its successful passage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Cook announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 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 1:57 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing