

## THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 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: Acting Chairperson Cheryl Cook, C. Edward Rogers, Russell Jones, Thomas Jay Ellis, Robert F. Lark and Michele C. Ruddy were present. Commissioner Salvatore DeBunda was present via phone in. Also present were Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto and Marija Kuren. Commissioners Darryl Breniser, Dr. Corinne Sweeney and Dr. John Egloff were 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.

Acting Chairperson Cook welcomed everyone to Harrisburg.

### **PUBLIC MEETING**

**1.) MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 MEETING** as emailed to the Commissioners for their review in advance of the meeting.

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

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**2.) RACING FUND NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT** – presented by Thomas Chuckas.

**3.) CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP OF CHESTER DOWNS AND MARINA LLC. by ELDORADO RESORTS, LLC.** - presented by Steven Schrier, Anthony Carano and Jeffery Hendrick from Eldorado and Barry Brown from Harrah's. The group made a joint presentation to support the change of ownership to EL Dorado resorts LLC. The presentation addressed the following key issues.

- Management and Governance
- Financial Background
- Racing's Future

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

#### **4.) Motion to approve the 2020 Thoroughbred Breeders Budget.**

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

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

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

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

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

### **LICENSING**

#### **7.) Motion to approve the Change of Ownership of Chester Downs and Marina LLC. by Eldorado Resorts Inc. Docket No. 2019-36 (See: Attached Order).**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**8.) OOCT Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas reported that 472 OOCT tests were completed in 2019. Director Chuckas reported that over 500 OOCT test are expected to take place in 2020.

**9.) Equine Racing Group Update.** Thoroughbred Director Chuckas presented the final Equine Racing Group recommendations to the Commission for adoption. The proposals addressed were Thoroughbred Timed Workouts, Medication Modifications, Veterinary procedures and Horse Identification.

#### **Motion to direct the staff to implement the proposed Statement of Policy and Regulation.**

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

**INDUSTRY REPORTS****10.) General Report**

Brian Sanfratello gave a report on the Pa. Breeders Assoc.

Dale Rapson provided an update on the Receiving Barn Project. The Receiving Barn is complete and will open on February 3, 2020. Pocono Downs has fulfilled their commitment. Mr. Rapson invited the Commission to the Opening Press Conference on February 6, 2020. In addition, he reported Pocono has purchased a new starting gate truck.

Barry Brown reported that Harrah's Opening Day is April 5, 2020. Mr. Brown highlighted key marketing programs such as: Sunday Family Day, Wagering Voucher Program and Summer Series hosted by WIP Radio. Harrah's will continue to partner with PHHA and PHRA on new initiatives.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** -None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Acting Chairman Cook announced the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at the FA RM SHOW Complex in the Susquehanna Room at 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

**NOTES**

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno  
Bureau Director  
Bureau of Standardbred Racing