

THE STATE HORSE RACING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2022

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 30, 2022, at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: Chairperson Cook, Darryl Breniser, Salvatore DeBunda, Dr. John Egloff, Thomas Ellis, Russell Jones, Robert Lark, C. Edward Rogers and Michelle Ruddy. Commissioner Sweeney was not in attendance. Also present was Commission Counsel Jorge Augusto.

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 to the meeting.

PUBLIC MEETING

1.) MINUTES OF THE June 28, 2022, Meeting:

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

2.) MINUTES OF THE July 26, 2022, Meeting:

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

PRESENTATIONS

3.) RACING FUND JULY FINANCIAL REPORT – presented by Tracee Gotwalt. Ms. Gotwalt 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

4.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for September 2022 for Harrah's Philadelphia, Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs and The Meadows.

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

5.) Motion to approve the Simulcast Calendars for September 2022 for Parx, Penn National and Presque Isle Downs.

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

6.) Motion to ratify the approval for the Meadows request to change Friday post time to 5:10 pm for the following days, September 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 30th, as well as October 7th and the 14th.

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

INDUSTRY REPORTS

7.) General Reports

Director Salerno recognized the following Industry participants for their reports:

- Scott Lishia, Meadows, reported that the Adios was a great success with a very large crowd on hand that wagered \$1,29 million. Mr. Lishia thanked everyone involved, especially Ashley Eisenbeil from the PHRA as well as the USTA and the staff of the MSOA, all of them did an excellent job trying to promote this great event. This weekend we will be hosting the Sires Stakes finals with over \$1.2 million in purses. We will also be holding several special promotions during the month of September honoring our first responders.
- Mike Zullinger, Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs, updated the Commission on the activities that took place on Sun Stakes Day, Mike thanked the PHHA and their staff as well as Ashley Eisenbeil and the PHRA for all their hard work to make it such a successful day. Mike reported that the remainder of the racing schedule will be 3 days a week, till the end of the meet on November 19th.
- David Osojanak, Parx, reported that Parx returned from a 2-week break, and that August 22nd was PA Day at the Races. He thanked Brian Sanfratello and his team for all their hard work to make the day a success. David reported that everyone was preparing for the big week of racing coming up with the PA

Derby on September 24, and he invited everyone to come out for a great day of racing on PA Derby Day.

- Eric Johnston, Penn National, reported that Penn National celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 19th and they had a great crowd. They ran races geared to the local horsemen and that worked out very well, three of the Stakes were won by people right here in the state, we appreciate the support of the HBPA for these programs. He noted that their schedule changes for the fall, going back to a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule.
- Barry Brown, Harrah's Philadelphia, Mike Harant gave the report for Mr. Brown stating that Harrah's will be racing 3 days a week for the remainder of the season, he also reported that the Sires Stakes Finals for 2-year olds will be held on Sunday September 4, with over \$1.2 million in purses.
- Mike Harrant, PHHA, Mike echoed what Mike Zullinger reported earlier about Sun Stakes Day, a lot of great races with some great finishes, a large crowd with all kinds of family-oriented activities and a great crowd in the Clubhouse. Mike reported that there have been 17 fairs conducted with 4 more to go.
- Jeff Matty, PTHA, Jeff reiterated to the Commission that he would like to thank Brian Sanfratello from the PA Horse Breeders for all his hard work on PA Day at The Races, as well as David and his staff. As we go into September, we're very much looking forward to Derby week highlighted by two Grade 1 races, the PA Derby and Cotillion. The PTHA will be hosting a Derby week cocktail party on Friday September 23rd for local legislators.
- Kim Hankins, MSOA, Scott Lishia gave a fine report of the Adios and what's going on here at the Meadows, so I have nothing more to report.
- Matt Ennis, PID, reported that things are going well at PID. They are gearing up for their Master's Day, which is our Grade 2 Stakes coming up on September 19th, we'll be giving away more Stakes monies on that day than we have since we opened back in 2007. Ashley Eisenbeil will be here with the Jockey Simulator along with numerous family activities, food trucks and a beverage trail. We're really going to drive that day as we never have in the past for attendance, as well as our current company Churchill Downs for QVG push.
- Brian Sanfratello, PHBA, reviewed the Breeders handout focusing on slot revenue and the PA Bred awards. PA Day at the Races was a great success. It was also the inaugural running of the PA Bred Sires Series, which was also a great success, we had seven stakes with over \$1,000,000 in purses. We also have a new Stallion coming to PA, Brody's Cause he will be standing at Equistar Farm home of Smarty Jones. We are also in the process of trying to put together a new Stallion Station in PA.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment, but Director Chuckas had 2 quick items.

Director Chuckas reported that Commission staff conducted 82 Out of Competition Tests since the last meeting, 32 at Parx, 10 at the Meadow's and 40 at farms surrounding Pocono. The second item is an update on the Hotline. We have a total of 68 calls year to date, 61 of those calls are closed out; 7 are still open and under investigation. Of the 68, we received 11 in the last month, 2 are still open and 9 are closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Cook announced that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022. The Meeting location will be Room 309 and on Teams.

- Executive Session 11:00 a.m.
- Regular Session 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY: Commissioner Breniser

SECOND BY: Commissioner Rogers

DECISION: Passed by Unanimous Vote

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Anthony Salerno
Bureau Director
Bureau of Standardbred Racing