

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2023  
@NAGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2501 JOLLY RD, OKEMOS, MICH**

**PRESENT:** Scott Altizer, Brett Boyd, Claudia Cary Davidson, Jerry Earls (Zoom), Teresa Marotta (Zoom), Kim Pluta, Crystal Terrell (Zoom), Greg West (Zoom), Legislative Rep David Ladd (Zoom), Ngage Management Katy Stanke

**ABSENT:** Charles Taylor, Tom Barrett

**GUEST:** Steve Wing

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Brett Boyd called the meeting to order at 4 pm, with a moment of silence for Joseph Harris and Penny Howard. **Motion:** Claudia Davidson moved to excuse the absent of Tom Barrett and Charles Taylor, supported by Kim Pluta, motion carried by unanimous voice vote. **Motion:** Kim Pluta moved to suspend normal meeting agenda and standing reports, supported by Scott Altizer, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** David Ladd reports a letter will be drafted by Tom Barrett and MAFE (John Schut) regarding the MHHA opposing the transfer of racing from the Dept of Ag to the MGCB. Legislative members return in January and hope to move forward with Bill 411-414 as is. Senator Cherry supports our legislation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Northville Downs Update:** Brett Boyd reports racing at Northville Downs will resume January 5<sup>th</sup> thru February for a 10-day meet, qualifiers December 28<sup>th</sup>. This will meet contract agreement for 2024. The Carlos continues to negotiate with Plymouth Township, agreement to be made with the monies over breakage. Possible January meeting to finalize. Plans for a temporary simulcast facility are pending. We will exhaust all license track line budget with the January race days. Horse shortage is a concern.
2. **Award Committee:** Claudia reviews the award: After discussion and a few changes: **Motion:** Claudia moved to support the awards as written, supported by Brett Boyd, motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Discussion on the Michigan Bred awards, **Motion:** Claudia moved to support the awards for the Michigan Breds, supported by Brett Boyd, Roll Call vote: Pluta- No, Altizer- No, Boyd-Yes, Davidson-Yes, Earls- Yes, Terrell-No, Marotta-No, West-No. 3 Yes votes and 5 No votes. Motion declined. Breeder Award pictures only if within the budget allows.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Lifetime Memberships: Motion:** Kim Pluta moved to approve lifetime memberships for Scott Altizer, John Goodyear, Joe Stevens, and Charles Taylor, supported by Claudia Davidson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
2. **Stallion Directory:** Crystal Terrell reports with the concerns of stallion eligibility for Michigan, we may consider to reinstate a stallion registry with MDARD support.

**MHHA COMMENTS:** None

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS:**

MGCB could write an executive order to allow the Sire stakes to be raced at a location other than a Pari-Mutual track, to a county fair in 2024. MDA have sent the fair race day applications to the county fairs. Possible new fairs to return are Midland, Croswell, and Marshall.

Annual Meeting: Katy reports 32 reservations to date. Katy request to extend to deadline date to January 1<sup>st</sup>, as the award people need more time to make reservations, approved.

Tom Barrett to negotiate with the Carlos and MGCD to change race day of January 20<sup>th</sup> to a double card on Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>. or Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> for both cards.

Kim Pluta discusses the horsemen membership policy, how did some many horsemen race without membership? We need a better enforcement. **Motion:** Kim Pluta moved all owners, trainers and drivers in good standing will pay a \$50.00 membership fee or administrative fee to the MHHA to be eligible to race at the fairs. Membership must be paid in full before acceptance of stake payments are made, supported by Scott Altizler. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Katy will manage the membership policy.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion:** Claudia moved to adjourn at 6:15 pm, supported by Kim Pluta, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**NEXT MEETING:** Annual Meeting January 20, 2024 5PM, at Crown Plaza, Lansing

Minutes prepared by Secretary Claudia Cary Davidson, December 10, 2023 Pending board approval.