

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024
@ NAGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2501 JOLLY RD, OKEMOS, MICH**

PRESENT: Scott Altizer, Tom Barrett, Aaron Colley, Claudia Cary Davidson, Don Marotta, Teresa Marotta, Kim Pluta, Charles Taylor, Crystal Terrell, Legislative Rep David Ladd (zoom), Ngage Management Katy Stanke, and Lisa Keefer

ABSENT: None

GUEST: Frank Marotta D.V.M., Bill Gira, Steve Wing, Jerry Earls, Don Harmon, Julie DeMull, Marilyn Breuer-Bertera, Rocky Bertera, and Carrie Marotta.

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Barrett called the meeting to order at 4pm. No moment of silence.

REVIEW BOARD MEMBER ROLES AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Katy Stanke reviews the responsibilities and duties of the board of directors and officers. Lisa Keefer reviews the conflict of interest and disclosure of conflicts policy. Such a policy will create public confidence and transparency with our members to ensure business is done without potential conflicts. Tom Barrett, suggest we establish this policy and procedures for the board of directors to sign. Lisa will draft a policy for next meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION:

Motion: Brett Boyd move to go into Executive Session at 4:15 pm, supported by Claudia Davidson, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

President: **Motion:** Crystal Terrell moved to nominated Tom Barrett, supported by Teresa Marotta.

Motion: Aaron Colley nominated Brett Boyd, supported by Kim Pluta. **Motion:** Crystal Terrell moved to close the floor for nominations, supported by Aaron Colley, motion carried by voice vote. Ballot vote results Brett Boyd.

Vice President: **Motion:** Brett Boyd nominated Tom Barrett, supported by Kim Pluta. **Motion:** Don Marotta nominated Kim Pluta, supported by Claudia Davidson. **Motion:** Teresa Marotta moved to close the floor for nominations, supported by Claudia Davidson, motion carried by voice vote. Ballot count tied, a second revote, results: Kim Pluta

Secretary: **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to nominated Claudia Davidson, supported by Aaron Colley. No other nominations from the floor, motion carried with unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer: **Motion:** Scott Altizer nominated Crystal Terrell, supported by Kim Pluta. No other nominations from the floor, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Director: **Motion:** Claudia Davidson nominated Tom Barrett, supported by Teresa Marotta.

Motion: Brett Boyd nominated Scott Altizer, supported by Crystal Terrell. Ballot vote results Tom Barrett. **Motion:** Crystal Terrell moved to destroy all ballots, supported by Claudia Davidson, motion carried by unanimous voice vote. **Motion:** Brett Boyd move to go out of Executive Session at 4:45pm, supported by Don Marotta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

New Officers: President: Brett Boyd, Vice President: Kim Pluta, Secretary: Claudia Cary Davidson, Treasurer: Crystal Terrell, Executive Director: Tom Barrett.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **Motion:** Claudia Davidson moved to accept the agenda, supported by Brett Boyd. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 16, 2023, December 7, 2023, January 13, 2024, January 20, 2024 Annual Meeting. Correction to November minutes under Old Business to remove language under

Colt Stakes Expense Summary. **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to accept the November, December and January minutes with the correction, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Katy Stanke reports 48% or 220 active members, 26% or 124 actives in the grace period, 15% or 68 Lifetime and 12% or 56 Lapsed memberships since 2022.

STANDING REPORTS:

President Report: Tom Barrett reports Northville Downs is closed, and they must vacate the property by February 15, 2024. John & Mike Carlo, Tom Barrett and Claudia Davidson meet at the Fowlerville Fairgrounds for a walk thru to determine if Fowlerville facility would function as a temporary simulcast and pari-mutual facility. The Fowlerville Fair Board visited Northville Downs on closing night, the Carlos treated the group with a tour, dinner, and starting car rides. John Carlo meets with the fair board to discuss a future plan and the MGCB requirements. February 10, 2024 the Fowlerville Fair Board unanimous voted to approve the partnership with the Carlo family. February 12th the fair board and John Carlo meet with Handy Township at the fairgrounds to discuss a plan for a special event permit. Handy township requested a detailed letter of operations of simulcast and pari-mutual activities. Claudia will write this letter. MGCB approval is pending. The Carlos will sell the Plymouth Township land and are actively looking for other land sites to build.

Treasurer Report: Crystal Terrell reports Northville Downs simulcast is down 10%, ADW remains flat, The stipend monies were paid out to the horsemen. Don Marotta asks what happens to the ADW money after January 1, 2025, we need to secure those funds. **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to secure the ADW revenue for Stake races to be in one account, supported by Teresa Marotta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Legislative Report: David Ladd reports by zoom, there are two concerns, 1. Agri Equine Fund broiler plate language and 2. Bills 411-414 to get thru the legislative process. The Governor's budget has no changes and will be completed by June or July. MGCB budget is 2.4 million, Agi Equine Fund budget is 5.6 million. Majority Leader to schedule dates for Bills 411-414, no concrete date is set. Republican and Democrats are at outs, not much is getting done. Senator Sue Shink is hosting community coffee visits in Northville 2/26 and Dexter 2/23, Tom Barrett, Marilyn Bertera, and Julie DeMull will attend. David Ladd will provide them language and information to speak on.

Pari-Mutual Report: No report

Colt Stakes Schedule: Crystal Terrell offers two options for the schedule. **Motion:** Aaron Colley moved to support option 1, supported by Don Marotta. Motion carried by voice vote, 2 opposed, (Kim Pluta and Scott Altizer). The scratched colt from Allegan that did not pay the entry fee has been resolved. The MHHA has no policy to collect those funds but, did provide help to Allegan County. The rule starts that the entry fee is not paid before the time of entry for the next stake week, the entry will not be accepted until paid in full.

Horse Racing Advisory Commission: Tom Barrett reports the commission has grant funds to support advertising campaign for Fowlerville race days. A promotional marketing packet could support all fairs. A grant for Tim Woodard for starting car repairs in process. Grant funding to Fowlerville Horsemen for advertising expenses of 2023 are pending.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting Report: Claudia Thanks Katy and her family for their help with the banquet. Banquet over all was very successful event. Things to change for next year, a better sound system, to do the auction before the awards, start earlier, no hotel rooms, and a video playing during the awards. Total expense of the awards \$4,378.50, total expense \$24,835.91, total income \$18,943.75, total income for the scholarship fund \$12,157.50. Need more sponsors for next year to offset the cost.

Live Stream Vendor for Fairs: **Motion:** Crystal Terrell moved to accept the bid from 4-12 Communications for \$700.00 per race day, estimate budget \$21,000.00, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion

carried by unanimous voice vote. Crystal will get a price quote for banquet video. The Advisory Board and USTA may help with this expense.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lifetime Membership: **Motion:** Tom Barrett moved to accept Lifetime Memberships for: Geoff Howles, Rick Lake, Lavern Miller, Suwanee Goodyear, William Marquis, Kim Laier, Tom Laier, Scott Hayden, supported by Charles Taylor. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Fair Blankets: Teresa Marotta reports: Orders from the fair race day blankets are coming in. 327 total blankets, Teresa is working with the fairs to have them sponsor blankets and suggest that the MHHA only order for the three stake races. **Motion:** Aaron Colley moved to provide race day blankets for the Sire Stakes, Great Lakes Stake and Sparten Stake and chairs to all other race days, supported by Don Marotta. Motion carried by voice vote, one opposed (Scott Altizer).

Gate Training Day and Budget: Claudia reports Fowlerville Gate Training Day Sunday June 2nd, post time 12 noon. **Motion:** Don Marotta moved to allow a budget up to \$1,000.00 with the proof of expenses, supported by Scott Altizer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Caro Gate Training Day June 9th.

MSU Expo Volunteers: MSU Expo March 8,9,10, volunteers are needs to work. Crystal and Teresa are planning on going. One horse will be available and the virtual reality video, will need to be pick up from Ohio. **Motion:** Don Marotta moved to pay Crystals and Teresa hotel and food expense for the expo event, supported by Claudia Davidson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Open Zoom Meeting: Zoom meeting for members to attend meeting using a sign in link. **Motion:** Don Marotta moved to use live broadcast zoom meeting for the membership that sign in, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MHHA MEMBER COMMENTS: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS: Crystal comment that Hasting is working on track upgrades and the possibility of using the 4-H horse barn for stalls on Sire Stakes Day.

Brett Boyd stressed the importance to attend Senator Sue Shink events in Northville and Dexter. We need to focus on getting legislation passed, get the caps lifted and get the money. If we don't, we will lose it all. The partnership with MHHA, MGCB, MAFIE, and Carlos is top priority.

Brett Boyd also wants to establish committee assignments and define committee duties.

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion:** Kim Pluta moved to adjourn at 7:45 pm, supported by Aaron Colley. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2024 at 4pm @ Ngage Management Office 2501 Jolly Rd Okemos, Mi

Minutes prepared by Secretary Claudia Cary Davidson, February 17, 2024 Approved March 21,2024