

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 15, 2023
@ NAGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2501 JOLLY RD OKEMOS, MI**

PRESENT: Scott Altizer, Tom Barrett, Brett Boyd, Claudia Cary Davidson, Jerry Earls, Teresa Marotta, Kim Pluta, Charles Taylor, Crystal Terrell, Greg West, Legislative Rep David Ladd, Ngage Management Katy Stanke.

ABSENT: None

GUEST: Julie DeMull, Marilyn Bertera, Steve Wing, Rob & Carrie Marotta

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Barrett called the meeting to order at 4pm. A moment of silence for Tom Sweeney, David Rose, Dennis Stolz, Dr Pinkston. No absences to excuse.

GUEST COMMENTS: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of May 18, 2023 reviewed. **Motion:** Crystal Terrell moved to accept the minutes as read, supported by Teresa Marotta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING REPORTS:

1. **PRESIDENT REPORT:** Tom Barrett report the Advisory Commission has allocated \$40,000.00 for promotional needs in addition to the amounts to the Trot and Pace summer broadcast initiative. The commission wants to offer a handicap and owners seminar in conjunction with the fall sale. A marketing and promotional package will be offered to each fair that host Harness Racing. Reimbursement of funds for expenses paid for promotional items and track safety up to \$2,000.00.
2. **TREASURER REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports a review of account balances, the Colt Stakes account was transferred to a Money Market account short term. There is a 15% reduction in simulcast to date. A purse reduction starting next week, watching the purse pool closely to ensure purse money availability, in hopes to extend the meet. Use of license track money for purses for MOD horses, and encouraging the race office to write MOB races. **Motion:** Charles Taylor moved to accept the financial report as recorded and place on file for future audits, supported by Teresa Marotta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** David Ladd reports he hopes for the budget to be finalized by July 4th. FY23 budget completed by June 29th, FY 24 budget is pending. Funding for the first fair in jeopardy, the MHHA may need to fund. It takes time after approval for the funding to get to the departments and distributed. Section 20 amendments, changes to the bill draft have come a long way and going in the right direction. Senator Lawyers has control and is supporting our needs. Language changes to Sire Stakes, Grants, Advisory Commission and Percentages.
4. **PARI-MUTUEL REPORT:** Though June 4, 2023 simulcast handle was \$20,622,34.60 compared to \$24,392,234.30 in 2022. Average live handle though

week 9 is \$38,161.50 compared to \$31,740.00 in 2022. Future for air quality control guidelines will be established by MGCB.

5. **COLT STAKES REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports budget pending, the fair book is ready. The Fair Final is subject to be cancelled and Breeders Futurity location and time to be determined. Sire Stakes is September 5th at NVD.
6. **HORSE RACE ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Report as above
7. **MEMBER CONCERNS:** Jerry Earls reports the Concern Forms are on the MHHA website and the board and horsemen need to address any issues thru that process. Katy has a log sheet and any phone in concerns will be included.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **CREDIT CARD PROCESSING:** Crystal Terrell reports from January to April our credit card fee was \$4,000.00. A 3.5 % per transaction fee to cover this expense. **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to add a 3.5 % transaction fee added to any credit card transaction, supported by Greg West. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
2. **TROT AND PACE UPDATE:** Teresa Marotta reports Trot and Pace sent an e-mail to each board member to review the contract. No action taken. Marty Adler decline to MC the live streams videos.
3. **MINIMUM PURSE STRUCTURE:** Pending budget, [Tabled at this time.](#)
4. **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Katy reports 160 membership are lapsed, posting of the membership list at Northville and she will send of notices of expired memberships. Must be paid before the fairs start. Katy plans to start a social media campaign, a newsletter to include spotlight stories on members and horses.
5. **PHONE LOG:** Katy reviews the phone log. The board request her to continue this process and keep track of the calls and responses made.
6. **OUTSTANDING ADVERTISING INVOICES:** Katy report there are several past due invoices, she will send invoices.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **SMS TEXTING SERVICE:** Crystal reports the Easy Text system annual fee of \$288.00. Crystal suggests to change to Pony Express, with no annual fee. Board approved.
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE FEE FOR COLTS STAKES AND STAKE RACES:** Crystal reports the administrative fee does not cover the MHHA expense for colt and stake races. The entry fee is distributed \$50.00 to fair, \$75.00 to purse, \$25.00 to CHO at this time. **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to change to \$50.00 to the fair, \$50.00 to purse, \$50.00 to CHO, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
3. **SIRE STAKES DETENTION:** Scott Altizer questions the need for detention and to allow for emergency situations. Discussion: **Motion:** Brett Boyd moved to allow Tom Barrett to ask MGCB if every horse is blood test prior to racing, then no detention will be needed for Sire Stake eliminations and final, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. If the MGCB answer is no than detention will be scheduled.

MHHA MEMBER COMMENTS: Marilyn Bertera remarks on the importance of the Horse Council Equine Survey, that has a section for the racing industry. Every horseman should complete. Steve Wing has offered to help with promotional spot lights thru radio.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR COMMENTS: Tom Barrett reports the site plan at the Plymouth township is approved, it includes a public benefit plan for sports events. Next meeting is June 27th for the final approval, a shovel in the ground in 60 days. Public concerns of traffic, a casino and HHR gaming that were all addressed. Northville Downs closes March 2024 if all goes well. The banking industry is in turmoil with high commercial interest rates and lending concerns. This may delay construction for both parties for the Carlos and the township of Northville.

Discussion on the track condition at Charlotte fairgrounds. Todd Hacker hired a grader for two days of work. Track is unsafe and not raceable without intervention. The MHHA will request Charlotte board to pay half of this expense incurred due to reoccurring issues. Kim Pluta is working with the board to address race track condition. Todd Hacker is working on fair race tracks.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Scott Altizer moved to adjourn at 7pm, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2023 at 4pm @ Ngage Management Office

Minutes prepared by Secretary Claudia Cary Davidson, June 17, 2023 Pending board approval