

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES OF MEETING FEBRUARY 16, 2023
@NGAGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2501 JOLLY RD OKEMOS, MI**

PRESENT: Tom Barrett, Charles Taylor, Brett Boyd, Kim Pluta, Crystal Terrell, Claudia Cary Davidson, Greg West, Scott Altizer, Jerry Earls (by zoom)

ABSENT: Teresa Marotta (sick)

GUEST: David Ladd, Katy Stanke, Carrie & Rob Marotta, Jessica Stevens, Steve Wing, Aaron Bennett

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Barrett called the meeting to order at 4pm. Moment of silence for Walter Beagle, Done Daniels, Elpidio Bernardi, Orin Englehardt, Jeff West, Charles Bennett, Michael St Charles. Crystal Terrell moved to excuse the absence of Teresa Marotta, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- A. PRESIDENT:** Crystal Terrell nominated Tom Barrett, supported by Charles Taylor. Jerry Earls nominated Kim Pluta, supported by Brett Boyd. Closed the floor for nominations. Ballot results Tom Barrett
- B. VICE PRESIDENT:** Crystal Terrell nominated Charles Taylor, supported by Greg West. Claudia Davidson nominated Brett Boyd, supported by Kim Pluta. Closed the floor for nominations. After several tie votes Ballot results Brett Boyd
- C. SECRETARY:** Claudia Davidson nominated Teresa Marotta, supported by Crystal Terrell. Jerry Earls nominated Claudia Davidson supported by Kim Pluta. Closed the floor for nominations. Ballot results Claudia Davidson
- D. TREASURER:** Jerry Earls nominated Crystal Terrell, supported by Brett Boyd. Being no other nominations, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- E. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Jerry Earls nominated Kim Pluta, supported by Brett Boyd, being no other nominations motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Brett Boyd moved to accept the agenda, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Brett Boyd moved to approve the January Annual Meeting e-mail motion, supported by Crystal Terrell. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. PRESIDENT:** Tom gives a brief report of the meeting with Plymouth Township, and the Carlos. Plymouth Township has approved the first phase of planning the next step is the planning commission and licensing.
- B. TREASURER REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports on the January month end financials. General discussion of the organizations financial condition and outlook based on reports. Kim Pluta moved to accept the financial report as recorded as place on file, supported by Brett Boyd. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Crystal also presented the 2023 Stallion Directory, Thank You to the Ngage team for all the help.
- C. LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** David Ladd reports Lansing is working on Rebate of \$180.00 per filing, state income exemption tax on pensions, gun control package for regulation, background checks and licensing procedures. The transfer of TB line to STB line is in process, the hope that the AEIDF and MDART will approve by March.
- D. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:** Katy report the Sarro family has request the funds to be paid directly to them as the youth's job has paid for his schooling. They purchased supplies and a computer to class requirements. The family must supply proof of purchase, proof that the youth is attending classes and that the check has not been

already cashed. The board agreed to pay the family once receipts are presented. Brett Boyd moved to approve the budget for the 2023 Scholarship Fund of \$10,000.00 to be divided by 50/25/15/8/5 percentage for first thru fifth places. If less than five applications the top three awards will be paid, supported by Crystal Terrell. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Committee members Claudia and Kim plus one non board member to be determined. Applications on the website, final report due May.

- E. PARI-MUTUEL REPORT:** No report
- F. COLT STAKES REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports 130 Michigan Sired and 130 Michigan Breds, 2- & 3-year-olds for 2023 program. Nominations are being processed and a list will be available next month. An 8-week program with a \$11,000.00 per division for Sired and Bred horses. By 2026 the program will promote the Michigan Sired with more funding and dates if available. Kim Pluta suggests a one payment staking system for the future, Crystal responded if the legislation is passed and the 75/25 percentage is dropped, we could look into a one payment system.
- G. HORSE RACING ADVISORY COMMISSION:** Tom Barrett reports the commission will grant funding to Trot N Pace for promotional videos. And funding for Michigan Sired promotional programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. TRACK REPRESENTATIVE:** Jerry Earls reports: Horsemen's Field Representative draft of duties and compliance procedures. To interact with horsemen taking the complaints and bring back to the board for a resolution. The horsemen to complete written document, (forms provided) to be reviewed by the MHHA and race officials. This person to act as a liaison between the MHHA, MGCB, Race Office and Track Committee. This will be a paid position, at will employee. Jerry will process the forms and bring to next month's board meeting for consideration.
- B. ANNUAL BANQUET REPORT:** Claudia reports the attendance was up 220 people, several coming without pre-paid tickets. Crystal Gardens wants to confirm 2024 date, Kim Pluta suggests making reservation at a hotel that could accommodate overnight stays and more space. Katy Stanke will investigate a new location for 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS:** Life time memberships are for members over 65 years old and a member to MHHA for 15 years. Crystal Terrell moved to accept the lifetime memberships for Mike Haley, Raelee Beecher, Marian Haynes, Penny Brown, Edward Brown, Sue Smith, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- B. MSU EXPO:** Crystal Terrell has two horses and a ownership seminar planned for expo, March 10,11,12. Volunteers are needed.
- C. TROT AND PACE ADVERTISING:** A marketing campaign of local business to generate funds to defer the cost of the videos, including advertising the champions. Suggested rates of \$50.00 per spot for 15/30 second spots. Crystal will address
- D. HORSEMEN TEAM AT FAIRS:** Committee of Kim Pluta, Charles Taylor, Kelly Goodwin, Judge, Starter, Race Secretary or Fair Board member. Kim Pluta reports that he and Todd Hacker went to the Harrison board meeting to address their race track needs. Kim has requested a meeting with John Currey, Tim Roach and Todd Hacker to discuss the fair track policy and procedures, any board member welcome to

go, Charles Taylor, Claudia Davidson, will go. Board approved this meeting. To meet in Mt Pleasant next week.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION: Tom Barrett, Crystal Terrell, Brett Boyd, Kim Pluta, Mike Krombeen, David Ladd met with John Carlo February 8 to discuss frame work to mutually support the industry legislation. Review of Horse Racing Act Amendment recommendations. Removing the current cap of 3 million, lowering the simulcast tax to 1% from 3.5% thus benefiting NVD of 40%, remove the 75/25 percentage of section 20, remove the \$1,000.00 purse for overnights, ADW funds up to 1 million to support NVD, 40% off all new monies to NVD. MHHA request minimum 60 days of live racing, race track lights, heat, air condition, drivers' room with showers, snake bar, race track equipment, HD graphics, halter fee paid for 6-9 place finishers of \$100.00 to MHHA members, cancellation policy of \$300.00 per horse if a race day is cancelled for any reason, paid out the next week. If the AEIDF funding line is decreased to be allowed to renegotiate the contract to be mutually fair. Legislation must pass and the lines be fully funded before enactment. An attorney will review contract and language to protect the funding and live racing to be included. Brett Boyd moved to accept the Horse Racing Act as written, and allow Tom Barrett to complete the negotiations as necessary, if Carlos will not accept the ADW 1 million, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MEMBER COMMENTS: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS:

The MGCB has issued a finger print and background check policy to be completed before horses can qualify and race at NVD, all Drivers, Trainers, Grooms, and Owners, Tom is working to extend the deadline.

ADJOURNMENT: Kim Pluta moved to adjourn at 7:15 pm, supported by Scott Altizer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2023 @ 4PM @ Ngage Management Office 2501 Jolly Rd, Suite # 110 Okemos, Mi

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