

## **Board minutes:**

MHRI board meeting Mon. March 16th 2009 Owatonna Happy Chef, called to order 7:15 p.m.

Members present: Ron Banks, Greg Budach, Vern Devine, Brian Anfinson, Scott Banitt, Don Schimek, Dave Pagel, Ulf Holm-Johannsen

Absent: Jeff Ryan, Ted Nowatzki, Rod Pinske

Guests: Ron Lingle, Lee Benson, Commissioner Jesse Overton

Don Schimek moved to approve the agenda, second by Dave Pagel & carried.

Secretaries report by Greg Budach with Brian Anfinson moving to accept & second by Vern Devine & carried.

Treasurer's report by Greg Budach Vern Devine moved to accept & second by Don Schimek & carried.

Brief discussion on Hall of Fame... Nothing to discuss at this meeting.

Greg updated the board on the e-mail he received from Rod Newhart & his desire to stay with the ABC plan for 2009

Also noted that Peter Galassi was hired as announcer.

Commissioner Overton was asked to make a few comments. He expects to see the purses increase this year & hopes that the handle will increase as well. He spoke about Black Diamond & that their financial position is favorable as well as their intent to put capital into the facility where necessary. He stated they are spending 2 million dollars on marketing. The commissioner mentioned that he is open to hear from us & that he desires a safe & competitive meet.

The commissioner said he see's three integral parts to the horse racing industry in Minnesota, Quarter horses, Standardbreds, & Thoroughbreds. He stated that we need to keep in touch with Mary Manney or Dick Kruger if she's not available.

Commissioner Overton asked fro any concerns we may have.

Vern mentioned the cost of ambulance & EMT's. The commissioner said the racing commission is looking at a variance on Thursday's commission meeting.

Ron mentioned our concern with the race secretary & that we insist on writing MN. Bred races, (at least 1 per day).

We talked at length about conditions & how to recruit more horses. Vern moved to give Greg \$1,000 gratuity (same as last year) for his extra efforts throughout the year. Brian 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion & it carried.

Discussion on Minnesota Bred classes at Running Aces. Ron went through & clarified the classes that he had suggested. Ron will submit the amended list to Rod Newhart and stress that he must write at least 1 class per day.

Horse expo—we will support Running Aces if they get a booth. Discussion on liaison.... Would like someone to assist Running Aces staff with a press release to the USTA & local papers on a daily basis.

Greg moved to make Ulf the publicity liaison & Ron Lingle the horseperson's liaison to represent the board with Running Aces & the Racing Commission. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don and carried.

Greg encouraged everyone to contact their legislator's about the Racino/Slots bill & tell others to get involved.

Next meeting set for Mon. April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Happy chef Owatonna 7:00 p.m.

Vern Devine moved to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Pagel.