

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION April 19, 2007

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, April 19, 2007 at the Portland State Office Bldg, 800 NE Oregon Street, in Room 140. Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chair Todd Thorne, Lisa Metcalf and, via telephone, Kerry Johnson. Chair Jeff Gilmour, and Commissioner Julianne Davis were excused.

Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Approval of March 15, 2007 Minutes

ACTION: MOTION (Metcalf) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

2. Portland Meadows Update Reports

Dwayne Yuzik, General Manager, Portland Meadows, and Jerry Kohls, Racing Secretary, were present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

Compared to last year, average daily purse distribution is up 13%; export sales are up almost 70%; statewide wagering is down about 2%. They will have no trouble reaching the mandated 720 races for this meet.

Instant Racing project has begun and the tentative opening date is June 15, 2007. New OTB in Pendleton, Cadillac Jack's, plans to open by May 5, 2007.

Summer projects for backside improvements include repairing three of the barn roofs and renovating the restroom facility located at the end of 2nd Avenue.

They've applied for an early post time on May 5, 2007 in an effort to have as many races as possible prior to the Kentucky Derby.

⇒ Vice Chair Thorne stated that he'd received information from the last track committee meeting that the track was too hard and requested an update. Mr. Kohls reported that after working on it for several days, they were able to improve the condition of the track and acquire the desired cushioned surface.

⇒ Commissioner Metcalf stated that she had hoped to have a discussion about the condition of the track, but would postpone it until the other Commissioners were also present. She stated that she had researched the breakdown rate at Portland Meadows compared to other tracks in the country going back to 2003, understanding the difficulties in doing such a comparison because of differences at each track, and found that Oregon is below the national average most of the time, including this year. While there are eighty percent of the trainers that are pleased with the track maintenance, there are twenty percent on the other side that aren't and she has received numerous letters from those who are dissatisfied. She

encouraged the people on both sides to speak out and suggested that they present their comments to the Commission at the June meeting as she will not be able to attend the May meeting. [Note: The June meeting will be held in Union, Oregon and Commissioner Metcalf will be unable to attend. However, she will attend the July meeting.]

3. Sub-Committee Update Reports

No updates.

4. Oregon Greyhound Association Adoption Kennel Update

Dick Gage, President, Oregon Greyhound Association, and Carolyn Reeves, Volunteer Event Coordinator, were present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

The Adoption Kennel moved from Multnomah Greyhound Park to Shirley Rogers place at the end of December. The kennel was located there for two months before moving to its current location off Sunshine Valley Road in Damascus, Oregon.

Currently, they have 31 greyhounds in the adoption kennel; from January through March of 2007, 19 greyhounds were adopted out; in 2006, 136 greyhounds were adopted out; and in 2005, 154. There are currently 38 greyhounds on the list that are waiting to get into the adoption kennel.

Handed out a flyer for the OGA's upcoming Adopt a Greyhound event being held at Wood Village Town Center in Gresham, Oregon.

⇒ In response to Vice Chair Thorne's questions, Mr. Gage explained that the number of dogs in the kennel was down during the time that they were located at Ms. Rogers place as there were only about 30 crates available for the dogs. At the new location, there are 58 crates, but they are not all operational. As the crates are repaired, the greyhounds are being brought in.

Mr. Gage also explained that the number of greyhounds coming into the adoption kennel is declining because the greyhounds are being adopted by people in other states and because there is no longer racing in Oregon, not as many dogs get returned to Oregon. Eighteen of the dogs on the waiting list for the kennel are out of Florida and are being hauled out to Oregon. He stated that he does not expect large numbers anymore, adding that 38 is a lot less than 60 and 80 which was what they used to have waiting to get into the kennel. He added that they are also getting donations from Oregon State University for spaying and neutering the dogs which saves a lot of money and is reflected in the expenses for November. Sixteen dogs were spayed and neutered at OSU.

When asked for projections for the coming year, Mr. Gage estimated that they could realistically adopt out 100 greyhounds in 2007.

5. Confirmation of Next Commission Meeting – March 15, 2007

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Vice Chair Thorne and Commissioner Johnson stated that they would be able to attend the next meeting. Commissioner Metcalf stated that she would be unable to attend.

6. Legislative Updates

Interim Executive Director Gordon Tallman provided the following information on the legislative updates.

Senate Bill 747, the cash voucher bill, passed out of the Senate on April 16, 2007, had its first reading in the House and has been referred to the Speaker's desk.

Senate Bill 439, 24 hour medication rule, passed out of the Senate on March 14, 2007, had its first reading in the House, was referred to the Speaker's desk and then on March 22nd was referred to the Government Accountability and Information Technology Committee.

Senate Bill 441, one-third hub funds money, has had no activity since March 12th when it was recommended a due pass out of committee and referred to Ways and Means.

7. Executive Director Search Update

Commissioner Johnson stated she had no information to report.

8. Public Comment

- ⇒ Darrell Haire, Western Regional Manager of the Jockey's Guild, wanted to thank Mr. Yuzik and Mr. Kohls for working with the jockey's this meet. He appreciated the open communication that they had since their first meeting together on opening day and that continued throughout the meet.
- ⇒ Jim Ferguson, Trainer at Portland Meadows and President of OHBPA, stated that he started 250 plus horses there this year and probably had as good a response as ever for horses coming back. He explained that any time they had any problems they talked with Mr. Yuzik, Mr. Carter and Mr. Kohls and the problems were handled.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.