

MINUTES (AMENDED)

OREGON RACING COMMISSION JULY 18, 1996

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, July 18, 1996, at 1:30 p.m. for their regular meeting in Room 120C of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 N. E. Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon. Commissioners in attendance were as follows: Stephen Walters, Chair; Laura Fine, Vice Chair; and Tom Towslee. Commissioners George Rankins and Richard Reid were excused. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Minutes of June 21, 1996 Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

2. Oregon Racing Commission 1997-99 Budget

Steve Barham stated at this point the Commission needs to act on the policy issues in the budget. Some of the figures may change; may end up putting more into the general fund and less into the ORC account. Time lines: Agency request needs to be into Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by August 1st. It then goes through governor's recommendation process during August and September. Budget and Management then does its review in September and October, with governor's approved budget being finalized in November in preparation for printing in January. He reminded the Commission that the budget is not made a part of public record until the governor's approval process has been completed.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Submit agency requested budget with policy issues as presented by Steve Barham, understanding that there may be minor dollar adjustments.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

3. Multnomah Greyhound Park

a. Update

Carl Wilson reported as of Tuesday, July 16th, they have completed 54 live performances. The following figure comparisons need to take into account there are 14 less performances this year compared to last year: total handle is down 36%, total live including export handle is down 30%, with an average live handle down 19%. Simulcast horse and greyhound handles are up 52% and 51% respectively. Total Oregon handle is down 2%, while the total handle including exports is up 1%. Average attendance is down 25%. A couple of big days are coming up: the Oregon-bred Sprint Championship this Saturday and Family Day on August 10th which will feature non-wagering races during the afternoon and regular racing in the evening. Mr. Wilson also stated the combined visits of ORC and MGP staff to off-track sites have proved to be very beneficial for all parties involved.

b. Request for Additional Wagers and Special Day Wager Changes

Carl Wilson requested the Commission approve a wager which would conform to the state statute dealing with handicapping contests. This wager would include the mutuel winnings plus a predetermined prize amount.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Delegate to executive director approval of type of wager described by Carl Wilson as long as it is within the state statute relating to handicapping contests.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

4. Grants Pass Update

Glen Knickerbocker reported the total handle was down 3% compared to last year. They did lose three days of racing this year, two as a result of heavy rain opening weekend and one over the July 4th weekend where they were scheduled to have run four days but instead ran only three due to a lack of horses. The Christmas Tree bill money was very much welcomed and prevented them from being in the red at the end of the meet. There was a great response this year to the Quarter Horse Futurity during the last weekend of racing.

5. Lone Oak-Salem Update

Glen Knickerbocker reported they are about three months behind schedule. The contract negotiations with Oregon State Fair had a significant negative impact on their ability to be completely ready for the beginning of live racing on July 27th. Due to a number of factors, LOR will not have total possession of the facility until the 26th. He also stated they have more horses on the list than they have stalls available.

In a related matter, Chair Walters, who was not present at the June meeting, made reference to a letter from Rusty Vernon, OSF, to Pat O'Sullivan, Legislative Coordinator, DAS, regarding action taken by the Commission at the June meeting on OSF's Legislative Concept 626. For the record, Chair Walters reiterated his strong commitment to live racing at OSF for this year and in the years to come.

6. Six Year Plan Update

Steve Barham stated copies of the material submitted to the Commission for their consideration at the June meeting were sent to all ORC staff members and various industry participants. He is planning on setting up meetings with various industry groups, starting with small groups to begin with and then bringing them together for further consideration and discussion. Chair Walters commented that he feels this is an exciting proposal, and encouraged everyone to make their views known. Tom Towslee will be the Commission point person and will coordinate meetings with Steve Barham.

7. ORC Legislative Concept Update

Steve Barham reported he had met with legislative counsel. After the drafts are completed the Commission will have the opportunity to look at them at the August meeting and finalize the concepts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.