

# MINUTES

## OREGON RACING COMMISSION AUGUST 15, 1996

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, August 15, 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; George Rankins, Tom Towslee and Richard Reid, who arrived late. Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chair Walters announced the following staffing changes, commenting on each individual's contributions to the agency: the death of Presiding Judge Tony Amato on August 3, 1996; the inability of Deputy Chief Investigator Lynda Paige to continue on with the agency due to medical reasons; and the resignation of Chief Investigator Guy DeLuca to go to a new position with the Department of Corrections. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

### **1. Minutes of July 18, 1996 Commission Meeting**

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve minutes as corrected.  
VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent

### **2. Multnomah Greyhound Park**

#### **a. Update**

Carl Wilson reported the following: total live Oregon handle is down 35%, taking into account there are 17 fewer race performances compared to last year; total live with exports is down 30%; average live Oregon handle is down 20%; simulcast horse and greyhound are up 53% and up 31% respectively, with total simulcast up 45%; total Oregon handle is down 6%, bring total handle down 3%. While the attendance was good for the Wiener Dog Summer Nationals, the handle was not good. Coming up this Saturday is the Derby, and August 25th will be Greyhound Adoption Day.

(Dr. Reid arrived)

#### **b. Request for 1997 Race Dates**

In an effort to get some things finalized before the end of the current race meet, MGP is requesting the normal window of race days, Wednesday, April 30, 1997 through Sunday, September 28, 1997, with live racing commencing on May 2 and ending on Saturday, September 27. There was also discussion on bookings, passes, development of portions of MGP property. Steve Barham recommended approval of the race dates request.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve the request for race dates, subject to timely submission of an application for issuance of a race meet license, and approval of that application by the Commission.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

### **3. Request by Kevin Knowles for Reinstatement of License**

Steve Barham summarized the record of the request for reinstatement. Mr. Knowles has gone to rehab and has paid New Portland Meadows back in full.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Depending upon the content of a letter to be received from employer, reinstate license as a groom with the condition that Mr. Knowles be restricted from the wagering areas. During the discussion portion on this motion, it was decided to table the motion until next meeting to allow Commissioner Fine to make some contacts with MR. Knowles' parole officer.

VOTE: Motion tabled until September meeting.

### **4. Lone Oak-Salem Update**

Lonnie Craig reported for the first three weeks of the meet that simulcast of the live is down 20% while imported simulcast is up 28%. Purses are being increased \$300 across the board, and as a result they now seem to have plenty of horses. State Fair begins on August 23rd.

### **5. Patron Comments on Surcharge**

Mike Jessic expressed his views regarding surcharges at the Oregon OTB sites.

### **6. New Portland Meadows 1996-97 Race Meet Application**

Mike Dorough and Woody Mitchell presented the application to the Commission for their consideration and approval. Steve Barham then proceeded to go through the application item by item along with his memo to the Commission in which he identified areas needing particular attention (copy attached).

(1) Mr. Dorough stated NPM had brought the total number of racing days to 80 by adding Presidents' Day on February 17, 1997, in order to bring the number of race days in compliance with state statute. Cliff Babbitt, HBPA, voiced the HBPA's strong opposition to not racing on Fridays.

(2) No comment.

(3) Needs more work; looking at better organization of mutuel manager's office. Contracts need to be submitted. Mr. Dorough stated they are looking at basically the same format as last year.

(4) No comment.

(5) Track is going to have to show ability to manage.

(6), (7), (8) No comment.

(9) Steve Barham stated he's not interested in bringing up OTB sites just to have them taken down again. Urged both tracks to start working together re new sites. On bonus back program, needs more clarification.

(10) No comment

(11) Jerry Kohls added to officials as racing secretary.

(12), (13) No comment.

(14) Bond amount \$275,000.

(15) Suggested NPM contact Steve Barham on issues of concern to the Commission so that Commission can go into executive session during the September meeting.

Condition of the track surface is of utmost importance to the Commission. Need to be satisfied safety of the race track is not an issue in granting the race meet license.

Chair Walters raised the issue of track ownership, stating a briefing by NPM counsel needs to provide the Commission with some satisfaction there is not a danger that a change of ownership or any other factors would require the Commission to pull the race meet license.

Steve Barham will put together a summary of issues needing to be addressed at the September meeting.

#### **6. ORC Legislative Concept Action**

The Commission went through legislative counsel's draft of the proposed bill of revising Chapter 462. Following amending the draft, Steve Barham stated the next step in the process would be to provide legislative counsel with the revisions, who in turn would redraft the document and have it filed as an agency bill.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.