

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION JULY 18, 1997

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Friday, July 18, 1997, 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; Tom Towslee, and Baltazar Ortiz. Richard Reid was excused. Before starting the meeting, Chair Walters introduced and welcomed Mr. Ortiz as the newest member on the Commission. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Minutes of June 20, 1997, Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

2. Multnomah Greyhound Park Update

Carl Wilson reported as of July 16th 55 live performances have been conducted, and that they will be halfway through the meet this coming Sunday. Their primary goal is to mitigate the downward slide following the July 4th holiday which has happened in the past. He stated the Oregon live handle is down 20%, total live handle is down 11%, simulcast horse handle is down 10%, simulcast greyhound handle is up 2%, total Oregon handle is down 12%, and total handle overall is down 9%. Attendance is down 10%. They feel they have a good group of greyhounds this year, good quality with no big stars.

3. Lone Oak Racing/Oregon State Fair

a. Update

Rusty Vernon, OSF, thanked members in the industry for trying to save the fair meet in Salem. He reported the bid submitted by Oregon State Fair and Expo has been cancelled and as a result there is not going to be a race meet in Salem unless something extraordinary occurs in the next couple of weeks. He reiterated there is no contract. Glen Knickerbocker, LOR, stated they still feel there is a \$50,000 short fall for running the meet this year based on the assumption the governor will veto HB 2870. Chair Walters stated this was a very disappointing report to hear, and he and the entire Commission appreciated the efforts of everyone involved to try to conduct a race meet in Salem.

b. Darrell Lee's Proposal for Racing at Oregon State Fairgrounds

While he was not on the agenda, Mr. Lee asked if he could present to the Commission a plan whereby he could guarantee a race meet in Salem this year. He stated it was an amendment of a plan previously presented to the Commission in March which provided for racing at Salem for five months. Mr. Lee feels there is enough money to put on a nine day race meet even though they would operate at a loss of \$50,000 or less. In order for the plan to work, (a) New Portland Meadows would be a necessary element of the plan, and (b) Mr. Lee's license would have to be reinstated. When Mr.

Lee was through with his presentation, Chair Walters thanked both Mr. and Mrs. Lee for presenting their plan.

In addition to the above, Mr. Lee made a request that in light of the federal judge's ruling this morning, he would like to have the exclusion lifted, stating he wanted to submit the request for the record.

4. Legislative Update

Steve Barham reported all the bills affecting the racing industry have made it through both chambers. HB 2104 is the Racing Commission bill and would add account wagering. HB 2870 came out of the governor's task force on gaming and would provide financial relief to the racing industry due to the expansion of the lottery and Indian gaming in Oregon. Mr. Barham reported there is a pretty good chance HB 2870 will be vetoed. HB 3009 authorizes the ORC to adopt rules regulating a multistate mutuel wagering hub.

5. Request by Brian Turner for Reinstatement of License

Steve Barham stated he would probably recommend approval of the request with a number of conditions if Brian is going to be in Oregon, however, he is a little hesitant about his plans to go to Canada to ride. Mr. Barham said he has seen a big change in Brian over the past few months. Chair Walters said he would feel more comfortable about granting reinstatement if Mr. Barham could speak with his counselor.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine)

Approve delegation to Steve Barham authorizing him to grant final approval to reinstate license subject to satisfactory report from Mr. Turner's counselor, confirmation of availability of aftercare programs in Saskatchewan, signing of an agreement for random drug testing and providing a negative UA prior to reinstatement.

VOTE:

4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE RACING COMMISSION:

Dave Nelson requested that, if in fact the governor does sign HB 2870, that the Commission be available to take whatever action is necessary as soon as it has been signed.

It was announced the Commission would move into Executive Session at this time under the provisions of the Public Meetings Law, ORS 192.660(1), to consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection, and to consult with their attorney with regard to current litigation. Further, it was stated the Commission would not take any final action or may any final decision during the Executive Session.

The Commission reconvened in public session, with Chair Walters stating the Commission took no action during the Executive Session. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.