

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION SEPTEMBER 19, 1997

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Friday, September 19, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. for their regular meeting in the East End Banquet Area on the 4th Floor of Multnomah Greyhound Park located at 223rd and Glisan, Wood Village, Oregon. Commissioners in attendance were as follows: Stephen Walters, Chair; Laura Fine, Vice Chair; Richard Reid, Tom Towslee, and Baltazar Ortiz. Before calling the meeting to order, Chair Walters offered thanks to commission staff and fellow commissioners for changing the meeting date, and to Dick Cummings and his staff for hosting the meeting. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Minutes of August 21, Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent(Fine)

2. OTBA 1997-98 FISCAL BUDGET

Steve Barham stated the expenses fell within statute requirements and recommended approval of the request.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve budget request.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Absent(Fine)

3. Multnomah Greyhound Park Update

Dick Cummings reported as of Wednesday, September 17th, they had conducted 101 performances and that they have 18 remaining. Compared to last season, current figures show the live handle is down 19%, total live handle is down 8%, the import handle is up 63%, simulcast horses is up 56%, simulcast dogs is up 10%, the total Oregon handle is up 11%, and attendance is down 13%.

(Laura Fine arrived during the MGP update)

4. Lone Oak Racking Update

Lonnie Craig thanked the people who helped with the race meet: Spector, United Tote, horsemen, and employees who performed several job functions in addition to those assigned to their positions. LOR was finally able to work out an arrangement with OSF. As for the funding, unfortunately they will have to lay off the two full-time employees and probably close down the corporate office. They feel they are within \$10,000 of the original estimated loss for the nine-day race meet. Glen Knickerbocker stated the Commission has been provided with a letter that summarizes the live handle experience by making some comparisons of the 1997 meet to the 1996 meet. While the live-to-live statistics are very similar, he stated it is clear the live race meet cannot exist by itself. They should have final figures within the next two to three weeks.

5. E-Board Package Update

Steve Barham reported a memo was sent to all of the small tracks asking for their input as to what kind of funds they will need and the purpose for those funds. This subject will be on the October 23rd Commission agenda so that the proposed package can be approved by the Commission in time for the October 27th E-Board deadline. Question was raised as to whether or not Oregon State Fair would be submitting a funds request, to which Rusty Vernon replied they would not. He stated that in order for the Salem meet to be successful, it needs to be a commercial race meet with full card simulcasting.

6. Account Wagering Rules Update

Laura Fine reported on the first meeting which took place on September 11th. The group consisted of individuals from the racing community, interested patrons, and Chip Lazenby from the governor's office. Prior to the meeting a group of people organized a draft of what account wagering rules could be. They reviewed rules from around the country and tried to synthesize it into a starting point. It is much easier to start with something to edit rather than to start with a blank slate. There were many points where the group disagreed due to there being so many variables. The next meeting will be October 10th. There is a request from the governor's office through Chip Lazenby that we start with as restrictive a scenario as possible as a result of a lot of nervousness about account wagering. It's going to be a real asset to have Chip involved in the process as he is not unwilling to listen to other points of view.

7. Vet/Med Committee Report

Laura Fine and Richard Reid met with the Commission veterinarians and presented a number of rule changes proposed by the veterinarians.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve the rule change concepts for hearing and direct staff to initiate the rulemaking process.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

8. New Portland Meadows Off-Track Site Bonus Program

Steve Barham received a document from New Portland Meadows agreeing to distribute the money that was in question. Apparently NPM and the OTB sites have taken care of the problem. The only question is timing of payment, and it was decided payment would take place by December 1st. The matter was closed until December.

9. Consideration of Proposed Rules OAR 462-025-035, 462-035-035 – Guidelines for Responding to Request for Reinstatement of a License

No additional comments were received since the last meeting, however, there were a couple of changes proposed by commissioners.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Adopt rules as amended at the August meeting along with proposed changes as amended today.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

10. Request by Darrell and Vicki Lee

a. Reinstatement of ORC Licenses

b. Elimination of Exclusion Orders

Vicki and Darrell Lee each presented their views on the current status of their licenses and the reasoning behind their request to have them reinstated and to have the exclusion orders lifted. Statements from Chair Walters and Vice Chair Fine reflected their feelings there was no basis for the Commission to reconsider reinstatement of their licenses and to eliminate the exclusion orders. Commissioner Ortiz stated he would abstain when the vote was called since he has been on the Commission only a short period of time and does not have enough information to make a knowledgeable decision.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Reinstatement of licenses for Vicki and Darrell Lee be denied and exclusion orders for Mr. and Mrs. Lee are to remain in place.
VOTE: 4 Aye (Walters, Fine, Reid, Towslee), 1 Abstention (Ortiz)

11. Conditions on New Portland Meadows 1997-98 Race Meet License

The Commission went through the conditions which were set up for approval of the 1996-97 race meet license to determine if there needed to be any additions or deletions.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Direct counsel to prepare an updated Order Granting Conditional License with conditions remaining the same as the 1996-97 except for the deletion of item 5.9.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Towslee requested that the granting of a race meet license for New Portland Meadows for the 1998-99 season be placed on the October meeting agenda. He made it very clear that if the disputed ownership of the New Portland Meadows was not resolved when the race meet application was submitted to the Commission for approval, he would vote against granting a license to New Portland Meadows to conduct a race meet for the 1998-99 season.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.