

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION MARCH 19, 1998

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, March 19, 1998, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 140 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; Richard Reid, Tom Towslee and Baltazar Ortiz. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Minutes of February 19, 1998 Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve minutes as amended.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

2. 1998 Summer Fair Race Meet Applications

a. Josephine County Fair - May 16 through June 7

Steve Barham stated these were their normal racing days and recommended approval. There was a question raised by Chair Walters about the purse structure. Mr. Barham recommended delegating approval of officials and final purse structure to the executive director.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve race meet application and delegating to the executive director authority to approve the final list of officials and purse structure.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

b. Southern Oregon Horse Racing Association - June 13 through July 5

Steve Barham stated these were their normal racing days and recommended approval with same conditions as Josephine County.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve race meet application subject to the same delegations to the executive director as the Josephine County application.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

c. Tillamook County Fair - August 6, 7 and 8

Steve Barham stated these were their normal racing days and recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve race meet application subject to the same delegations to the executive director as the Josephine County application.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

d. Harney County Fair - September 12 and 13

Steve Barham stated these were their normal racing days and recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve race meet application subject to the same delegations to the executive director as the Josephine County application.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

3. New Portland Meadows Update

Mike Dorough reported the big event coming up this weekend will be the running of the Portland Meadows Mile on Saturday. Regarding current statistics, attendance is down 4%, handle on the live racing which includes the exporting of the signal is up 55%, handle on imported simulcasts for horses is down 8% and greyhounds is down 23%. Total handle is down 4%.

4. Action on Hearings Conducted Today

a. Nick Lowe

This case was continued to April in order that Investigator Carl Swanlund can be present to provide testimony.

b. James Wooten

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Uphold finding of the board of stewards, and impose a three-day suspension from riding in place of the six-day suspension imposed by the board of stewards in their order. It was determined there was nothing intentional with regard to violating the rule.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

5. Purchase of Multnomah Greyhound Park by Arthur McFadden from R. D. Hubbard Enterprises, Inc.

Arthur McFadden stated he had signed early last week an agreement with R. D. Hubbard Enterprises, Inc. to acquire Multnomah Greyhound Park which is on a parcel of land totaling 31 acres. The projected closing date is March 25, 1998, however, he was aware the commission probably would not be able to complete its background check on him by that date. There are no plans to make any changes this year, however, there will be quite a few next year. He also was pleased to announce that Dick Cummings, Carl Wilson and Mike Dewey will be staying on with greyhound racing in Oregon even though they had offers to continue on with Hubbard Enterprises. Mr. McFadden did state he will be assisting Hubbard Enterprises in the development of the shopping center. He then turned over the rest of the presentation to Dick Cummings who presented graphics showing the current layout of MGP and how it will look after the redesigning has taken place. The new layout will be completed by the beginning of the 1999 race meet. They are all excited about the changes that will be taking place. Within the coming year to year-and-a-half the commercial shopping center development should be complete. There are plans to construct residential units where the golf course is currently located, however, development of that parcel will not take place until 3 to 7 years from now. Steve Walters welcomed Mr. McFadden to his new role as race track owner, stating it was gratifying to have a local person with his years of experience in the industry, albeit in horse racing rather than greyhound racing, once again involved in the operation of MGP.

6. Legislative Concepts

Steve Barham reported there are two concepts being proposed. The first proposes simulcasting be controlled and operated by the Oregon Racing Commission, and that profits of the operation of simulcasting would be allocated on an annual basis to race meets operating in Oregon. The second proposes to remove the restriction prohibiting greyhound racing at the Oregon State Fairgrounds. Mr. Barham stated the Department of Administration asked him to submit the concept regarding simulcasting. He then provided an explanation of the legislative process at the request of

Chair Walters. The simulcasting concept would have a budgetary impact on the agency, so it would be included in the ORC budget for 1999-2001. Following discussion on the impact of simulcasting being controlled by the ORC, Chair Walters stated he would vote in favor of the legislative concept. He did go on to say he does not feel it is a great idea for the ORC to be in the simulcasting business. He recommended going ahead and continuing the process of establishing rules on simulcasting given the fact we have no idea how this concept might end up in final form as a bill.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve proposed legislative concept on simulcast racing being controlled and operated by the ORC.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve proposed legislative concept to remove prohibition against greyhound racing at Oregon State Fairgrounds.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

7. Rail Advisory Committee Report

Steve Walters reported the committee recommended initiating the rulemaking process on inside rails. At race tracks with meets running longer than 25 days, tilt rails would be eliminated and be replaced with a permanent covered gooseneck rail. For race meets running less than 25 days, the requirements would be more flexible. Design of the rail would be subject to approval of the ORC during the approval process of their race meet application. With the length of time required for the rulemaking process, approval of a new rule would probably take place in May or June at the earliest.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.