

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION MAY 28, 1998

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, May 28, 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 April 23, 1998 Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve minutes as submitted.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

2. Approval of Drug Treatment Services

Steve Barham stated Investigator Chuck Flores had done a great deal of background work on drug treatment services in both Oregon and Washington. The brochure in the commissioners' packets is a listing of approved facilities certified by the Oregon State Department of Human Resources, specifically pages 1 through 49 and Section II.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve listing of drug treatment services.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

3. New Portland Meadows Race Dates Request for 1998-99

Mike Dorough submitted a preliminary request to isolate race dates prior to submitting a race meeting application. The dates requested fall in line with those requested last season. Steve Walters stated the issue is that with New Portland Meadows requesting these dates, and any decision by the commission would be affected by (1) the commission's resolution adopted at the December meeting, and (2) the auction process ordered by Judge Moultree which would result in New Portland Meadows, Inc. auctioning off the operating rights so that there would be a new licensee who would be presenting a race meet application to the commission for consideration and approval. Mr. Dorough stated they were requesting these dates in order to reserve the dates for whomever would be running live racing at Portland Meadows race track, and wanting to make sure there is a window available for horse racing during this time period. Tom Towslee said he didn't have a problem with reserving dates for a race meet at Portland Meadows, it's just the question of reserving them for whom. The consensus of the commission was to agree that the race dates described in the letter are race dates the commission feels would be appropriate for a race meet at Portland Meadows, and that they do not intend to give them to anyone else subject to the outcome of the ownership situation at Portland Meadows and the licensing process for a race meet.

4. Multnomah Greyhound Park Update

Carl Wilson reported the Oregon taxable handle is up 5.5%, total handle is up 4.9%, and average attendance is about even. They feel their focus on fan convenience is paying off. They have done some direct mail with coupon books, and they are coming in pretty good. The live Oregon handle is down 6.1%, the total live handle is down 4.9%, and the simulcast handle is up 11.8%.

5. Whip Rule Committee Report

Steve Barham reported he, Gary Baze, and Bob Blair met recently with Bruce Batson, the Washington executive director, and their stewards and are working on a rule that both states can adopt at the same time. There's one area that needs a little more work and then he'll get together an Oregon advisory committee to look at it one more time. A recommendation of a new rule will probably be presented to the commission at the July meeting.

6. Approval of Stipulated Final Order for Nick D. Markle

Paul Sundermier stated Mr. Markle asked for a hearing, and while they were preparing for it, he and his attorney decided to take the penalty in the commission rules for a first time drug offense. This was a case where he failed to provide a urine specimen based on reasonable cause. With a first violation, he is subject to a 30-day suspension. It was agreed to credit him for time served. This is being brought before the commission as Mr. Markle had requested to bypass the stewards' hearing and go directly to the commission. Mr. Sundermier recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine)

VOTE:

Approve stipulated final order.

5 Aye, 0 Nay

7. Request from Greyhound Farms of Oregon for Funding from Breakage

Terry Washburn, president, and Ron Floyd, board member, stated their organization had been formed in late 1997 for the purpose of representing people who own or operate greyhound farms in Oregon and to help insure the health and welfare of the dogs raised in Oregon. Their purpose in coming before the commission is to seek funding for the operation of the organization. The primary function of the organization is the operation of a compliance program, which in effect is a self inspection program to make sure that on their farms they do not run into adverse situations, adverse publicity, things that would adversely affect the industry and to help insure the welfare of the dogs that are raised in this state. There are about 23 farms in Oregon and 15 of them are members. Their compliance program is 90% patterned off of the NGA inspection guidelines program. Some of the areas have been enhanced. They also sponsored the rule changes approved by the commission last month dealing with the licensing of the farms. They are in the process of centralizing the records and will also engage a compliance monitor. Steve Barham reiterated the compliance program was recommended by GFO and feels it is something the commission should endorse. The issue comes with the budgeting, and in looking at the budget there is nothing that seems out of line to him. The total breakage amount that the commission would be looking at under the provision of the statute to cover the OGF budget was about \$73,000 last year. GFO, then, is looking at close to one-third of the breakage amount. In the past that money has gone to OGBA. If the commission wanted to,

there is nothing in the statute that would preclude it from giving them this money. When the OGBA comes up with their budget next month, the commission may find itself in a weighing process, i.e., what is best for the breeding, ownership and training of racing greyhounds in Oregon. Mr. Barham suggested tabling this request until next meeting when OGBA will present its budget. In his mind it's going to be hard to beat a compliance program, and will be at the top of his priorities. Vince Bruno, OGBA, made some statements concerning the taking away of approximately \$26,000 of the OGBA budget to fund the GFO budget. Mr. Bruno went on to say that the compliance program presented by the GFO is a duplication of one already being conducted by the OGBA. Since Commissioners Fine and Reid will not be in attendance at the June meeting when the OGBA presents its budget, this item will be tabled until the July meeting.

8. Oregon State Fair 1998 Race Dates Request

Rusty Vernon and Cliff Lewis presented their race dates request for the meet to take place at the fairgrounds in Salem. Chair Walters inquired if they were planning on submitting their race meet application at the June meeting in Grants Pass, to which Mr. Lewis responded that was certainly their goal to do so.

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

9. Approval of OGA Adoption Kennel

Jack Bennett stated according to the new rules all adoption kennels must be approved by the commission and, therefore, the request is being submitted for approval. Steve Barham stated this is the first adoption kennel requesting to be approved. He recommended the commission approve the OGA adoption kennel, and for any further adoption kennels requesting to be approved, that the commission delegate the authority to approve to the board of judges.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve adoption kennel application submitted by the OGA.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Delegate authority for future requests for approval of adoption kennels to the board of judges.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

OTHER MATTERS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMISSION

10. Weather Related Issues:

a. Grants Pass

Steve Barham reported the meet was scheduled to have begun on May 16. Of the five schedule race days so far they have lost four of them. They have requested and he has approved making up those lost days on the Wednesdays in June. They want to get in all 18 days of racing and also want to distribute all of the purse money. They were also affected by the satellite spinning out of control which took out their ability to broadcast their races to the off-track sites.

b. Union

Eastern Oregon Livestock Show grounds have been flooded. Mr. Barham has been trying to get in touch with people to assess the damage, and the people are not answering their phones.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.