

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION DECEMBER 17, 1998

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, December 17, 1998, in Room 140 of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon. The meeting began with hearings at 10:00 a.m. The commission adjourned for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. for the balance of the meeting. Commissioners in attendance were Steve Walters, Chair; Richard Reid, Tom Towslee and Baltazar Ortiz. Vice Chair Laura Fine was excused. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Minutes of the November 19, 1998 Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

2. Request by OQHRA to Distribute Oregon-bred Breeder and Owners Bonus Funds from 1998 Summer Race Meets

Steve Barham recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve release of funds.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

3. Race Dates Request from Tillamook County Fair for 1999 - August 12, 13, and 14

Steve Barham recommended approval

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) 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: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

4. Commission Meeting Dates for 2000

Steve Barham recommended approval of the dates with the understanding that as we get closer to the actual meeting dates we may need to change some of the dates and locations. Dates are being requested this far in advance in order to reserve meeting room space in the Portland state office building. Question was again raised about scheduling more meetings outside the Portland area.

ACTION: MOTION(Ortiz) Approve dates for 2000 and direct staff to pursue having some of the meetings held in Salem.

VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

5. New Portland Meadows Update

Mike Dorough stated the problems created by USWest and being without phone service for 4 to 5 days really had a negative impact on their ability to conduct both live racing and simulcast wagering. Prior to last week their total handle was down 12%, however, by the end of last week their total handle was down only 6%. Their live handle is down 4.7%, the horse simulcast is up 1.5%, and greyhound simulcast is down 23%. The Umatilla

ORC MEETING MINUTES – December 17, 1998

off-track site is due to reopen this week following a major remodel by new owners. They are also looking at a new site in Bend. This past Saturday they had a special Oregon-bred Day that also included the annual Children's Breakfast with Santa.

6. Contested Cases - Jody Davidson

First, Commissioner Towslee wanted to state the commission found no validity to a suggestion by the owner of one of the horses ridden by Mr. Davidson that there was anything inappropriate going on to intentionally affect the outcome of the race. Second, Mr. Towslee stated there was no question in his mind that Mr. Davidson in both cases felt he was doing what was in the best interest of each of the horses he was riding. Unfortunately, however, anything less than 100% effort creates a negative impression on the betting public and is detrimental to racing. If, in fact, the horses did have serious problems, the commission questioned why they were continued to be ridden through to the end of each race rather than following established guidelines for jockeys to follow in cases such as these.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Uphold the suspension recommended by the board of stewards.
VOTE: 4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

7. Meeting with Jon Yunker

Steve Walters requested this item be added to the agenda. He reported on a meeting which took place with Jon Yunker, Director, Department of Administrative Services; Rusty Vernon, Oregon State Fair & Expo; Steve Barham and himself to discuss simulcasting issues. The upshot of the meeting was to relay the message that the director of DAS and the governor are expecting the commission to play a leadership roll on this issue during the upcoming legislative session. As a result, Steve Barham, Tom Towslee and Steve Walters will be talking with people about simulcasting issues over the next few weeks and will be taking a more active role as directed by DAS and the governor.

(The meeting recessed for approximately 5 minutes to allow Mr. Bullene, who had been present earlier in the day and had been told to return at 2:00 p.m., to be present for discussion on his request for reinstatement)

8. Request from Michael Bullene for Reinstatement of License

Mr. Bullene reported he had completed an intense drug treatment program and is presently attending two AA meetings a week. Currently he is working for Windy Ridge Farm. Mr. Bullene's license was revoked in 1996, and he just started sobriety this fall by completing the first phase of a rehab program on November 25, 1998. He stated the reason he didn't start earlier was due to lack of money to pay for the program. Chair Walters commended him on his efforts, however, he voiced his concern that this request was being made a little early in the treatment process. Commissioner Towslee was in agreement with the chair. Since it was noted there were some omissions in his application for reinstatement, It was suggested by counsel that if Mr. Bullene would like to withdraw his request, he could submit a corrected application further down the line. Mr. Bullene agreed it would be in his best interests to withdraw his application at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.