

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION AUGUST 19, 1999

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, August 19, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 140 of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland. Commissioners in attendance were Steve Walters, Chair; Laura Fine, Vice Chair; Tom Towslee, Richard Reid and David Price. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Approval of July 15, 1999, Minutes

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve minutes as submitted.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

2. Multnomah Greyhound Park

a. Request for Schedule Change

Carl Wilson stated MGP was requesting the continuation of Sunday matinees after Labor Day and deleting Tuesday evenings, which will result in five days of racing through the end of the race meet. They will then put the emphasis on a closing weekend instead of a closing night. Steve Barham recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Grant the schedule change as requested by MGP.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

b. Update

The MGP Derby will take place on August 21st, and Mr. Wilson invited everyone to attend. The Vet Med Symposium which took place on August 13th had an excellent program and was well attended. Primary presentors were Jim Gannon from Australia and Linda Blythe from OSU. As far as the race meet statistics are concerned, they are holding steady. The Oregon live handle is down 13%, total live handle is down 9%, horse simulcast is up 11%, greyhound simulcast is down 14%, total Oregon handle is down 3% and total handle is down 3%. Attendance picked up by being down only 3% compared to being down 8% last month. Regarding the new kennel compound, they do not plan to use the new facility until they are told to vacate the old one. They are fairly confident they will be in the current facility through the end of the race meet. Dr. Reid stated he had toured the new compound after attending the symposium on the 13th, and was pleased to report that it was state of the art.

3. Grants Pass Downs Race Dates Request for 2000 and 2001

The dates for both years are their traditional windows: 18 days for 2000 and 20 days for 2001. The primary issues are the Wednesday performances which makes the race meet more expensive to staff, however, it is better for the horses. Steve Barham recommended approval

subject to receipt of an application for a race meet license and approval of that application by the commission.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve dates as requested subject to receipt of an application and approval of that application.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

4. New Portland Meadows Race Meet Application for 1999-2000

Mike Dorough stated New Portland Meadows is requesting approval of an 82-day race meet, two days more than is requested in the printed application. The additional days are December 22 and 23. All performances will be in the evening with post time set for 5:35 p.m. When asked, Mr. Dorough stated the HBPA has approved the post time as well as the purse schedule and stakes schedule. The simulcast signals will be approved on an individual basis. Regarding the track, all of the new sand has been added. The HBPA reported they are very pleased with what has happened so far. Chair Walters raised a question about the order from the EPA regarding waste disposal. Woody Mitchell responded by saying they have been in daily communication with the EPA, and they are following the guidelines in the program and believe they have reached an agreement with the EPA for a 13-step program to implement a solution to the problem. They feel they are well on their way to reaching a solution that meets both the EPA's requirements and that New Portland Meadows can live with. In response to a question from Commissioner Towslee, Mr. Dorough explained their arrangement with TVG as it stands at this time. He hopeful that he will be able to give more details at the next commission meeting. Steve Barham stated there were no real issues, however, there were some things that would need to be delegated to the executive director for approval: changes and/or additions of officials, wagering types, simulcast programming (will judge full-card vs. partial-card simulcasting on its own merits), any changes in purse and stakes schedules, off-track locations, bond in the amount of \$270,000.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve application as submitted with \$270,000 surety bond and additional \$200.00 for the two added race days and delegate to the executive director authority to approve the areas cited by Mr. Barham.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

5. HBPA/OQHRA-Salem Race Meet Update

Dick Cartney and Glen Knickerbocker reported their meet began August 7th and they have had mostly full fields and they had 13 jockeys the first weekend. They had a problem with their signal on Saturday, but it was corrected by Sunday. The handle is less than they had expected, part of which could be due to having two less races each day this year compared to last year.

6. Hub Update

Rich McNutt, TVG, and Brad Higbee reported the wagering hub test was completed successfully last week. There are now 40 employees in Portland, meaning jobs for people in Oregon, and they have a few more to hire. A generator will be delivered in the next week for backup power, and a voice recording system will be installed soon. They are continuing to test procedures and processes. Steve Barham then reported on his trip to Tulsa to visit the call center. He stated they are better at validating a

person's age and address, date of birth, signature, etc., than having that information validated by a notary public. He was very impressed with the checks and balances being used at the call center.

7. Action on Notices of Intent to Revoke

a. Ramon Orozco-Contreras

Steve Barham recommended revocation of license.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Approve revocation of license of Mr. Orozco-Contreras.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

b. Fernando Velazquez

Steve Barham recommended revocation of license.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve revocation of license of Mr. Velazquez.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

8. Legislative Update

Steve Barham reported the legislative session was over. The ORC budget bill and HB 3425 which designated distribution of Hub revenues were signed by the governor. SB 229 was passed by the legislature but was vetoed by the governor. Commissioner Towslee then stated probably the veto was unnecessary, and what was unfortunate about it is that there were some provisions that would have benefited racing. The perception in some peoples' eyes is that the veto of SB 229 has somehow done something to prevent the expansion of gambling, when in reality it really doesn't. The governor, even though he vetoed SB 229, did sign HB 3425 which created the hub and dedicates two-third of the proceeds back to the industry. He said he would not have any problem reintroducing the contents of SB 229 in the 2001 legislative session. He feels the process we used where the industry came together and agreed on a bill under the auspices of the commission was a good strategy. The only mistake he feels we made was not being aware of the political implications of lifting the cap on off-track betting sites. On the subject of breed to breed, Commissioner Towslee said he would be happy to meet with NPM and MGP to hold discussions with the idea of doing something in the 2001 legislative session.

9. Request by OTBA for Delegated Authority to Executive Director for Approval of Owner Bonus and Breeder Awards for Grants Pass Meet

Ursula Gibbons stated the OTBA would like to be able to pay the owner bonus and breeder awards prior to the next commission meeting.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve request for delegated authority to the executive director to distributed funds.
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

10. Request for Change of November Meeting Date

Commissioner Price requested that the November meeting date be changed from the 18th to the 19th. It was the consensus of the commission to change the date. The location of the meeting will announced at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.