

MINUTES
AMENDED

OREGON RACING COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 19, 1999

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Friday, November 19, 1999, in Room 140 of the Portland State Office Building located at 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR. Since there was not a quorum present for the 10:00 a.m. scheduled hearing, the hearing was conducted by Chair Walters and Commissioner Price as hearings officers. The regular meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. following the lunch break. Commissioners in attendance were Steve Walters, Chair; Tom Towslee, Richard Reid and David Price. Vice Chair Laura Fine was excused. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

1. Approval of September 16, 1999, Minutes

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Approve minutes as submitted.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

2. Approval of October 27, 1999, Telephone Conference Call Minutes

ACTION: MOTION(Price) Approve minutes as submitted.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

3. Request to Distribute Funds from Oregon Greyhound Breeders Trust

Based on the letter received from the board of judges, Steve Barham recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Price) Approve dispersal of funds as outlined in the request.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

4. OQHRA 1999-2000 Proposed Budget

Steve Barham recommended approval.

ACTION: MOTION(Price) Approve budget as requested.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

5. Multnomah Greyhound Park End of Meet Report

Carl Wilson stated they had two major challenges this past season --horse signals and the access thereto, and their ability to come to an agreement with the Oregon HBPA to help them in the summer as well as get the signals during the MGP meet. The horse handle was up over 8% by the end of the meet. They were also able to give more starts to greyhound racing kennels by providing thirteen additional performances during the meet. The total Oregon handle was 4.4% under last year, and the grand total handle was 4.1% down from last year.

6. HBPA/OQHRA Race meet End of Meet Report

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Dick Cartney reported they were able to attract some very nice horses. Financially they handled \$1,238,626 during the meet, of which \$998,000 was on the live handle and \$248,000 off track, which averaged \$65,195 per day. It was not a tremendous financial success but they were able to keep the Salem meet going and were able to provide a place for the horsemen to race between Grants Pass and Portland Meadows. They were able to run for about \$340,000 in purses plus some Oregon-bred monies. Mr. Cartney went on to thank MGP management for providing the funds for the meet, Oregon State Fair for providing a place to run, and the commission staff for their guidance in getting through the licensing process. There was discussion as to possible reasons for the decreased handle of the Salem signal wagered at off-track sites compared to last year.

(Dr. Reid arrived)

7. New Portland Meadows Update

Mike Dorough reported they are in their sixth week of operation. The handle is about where they had projected it would be. Total handle is up 3.4%, horse simulcast is up .6%, greyhound handle off 2.8%, instate live is off 4.6%, export is up 37% which helps the live handle to be up 15%. They are hopeful the greyhound handle will go up as the meet progresses. A question was raised regarding the rumor there are a lot of empty stalls. Woody Mitchell reported they are using about 800 out of the approximately 900 stalls available. A lot of people are shipping in this year, about 35% each weekend. Fields have been between 8 and 9 horses. They are having a difficult time filling races. They feel they have been successful with the renovation of the track which took place during the off season.

8. Action on Mark S. Jennings Hearing

Chair Walters and Commissioner Price acted as hearings officers on this case due to lack of quorum. A proposed order will be prepared and will most likely be on the December agenda for commission action.

9. Proposed Orders - D. Price, HO

a. Josh F. Heater

Commissioner Price amended his proposed order by adding that Mr. Heater would be allowed to be present with family members at the track in public areas only.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid)

Adopt proposed final order as amended by Commissioner Price.

VOTE:

4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

b. Ronald M. Floyd

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Adopt proposed final order as submitted.

VOTE:

4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

10. Petition by OTBA for Hub Revenue Funding

Ursula Gibbons reported all their current revenue comes from what is designated in the statute. As handles in the state are declining, they are seeing the breakage revenues going down. Purses are now artificially funded and have no correlation to the amount that is wagered. The

breakage is what pays the breeder awards. Additionally, NPM is trying to expand the export of their signal, and the OTBA does not receive revenue from the exported signal. They are looking for a new source of revenue and are hoping funds from the multi-jurisdictional hubs will be able to provide the OTBA with funding which would come from revenue in excess of the amounts already designated to go to the Oregon fairs. Commissioner Towslee stated his understanding of the agreement reached during the session was that after the designated funds had gone to the Oregon fairs, and if there was any money beyond that amount available, everyone requesting funds would have an equal seat at the table. Steve Barham stated the process of getting the requests at the table by statute says the commission needs to adopt rules in order to do that. The commission also needs to have Emergency Board authority for increased spending limitation. He went on to say the revenue from the one hub right now is not at a level that even the fairs would get what they have received in past years for this upcoming year. Since there is no history on the amount of money coming in from the hub, it is difficult to predict how much revenue will be received. Chair Walters stated the request was very appropriate, however, the commission is not at a point right now to act on the petition.

11. Payment Approval by OTBA for Owner Bonus and Breeder Awards for Salem Meet

Ursula Gibbons stated the request is actually asking the commission to delegate authority for the executive director to approve the distribution amounts of the owner bonus and breeder awards for the Salem meet.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid)

Approve request for delegated authority.

VOTE:

4 Aye, 0 Nay, 1 Excused

Other Matters Before The Commission:

12. Question by Commissioner Towslee on Lava Lanes OTB Site

Carl Wilson reported Lava Lanes was one of two sites in Bend. While NPM is currently using them as an OTB site, MGP sent them a letter at the end of their race meet stating they would no longer be an OTB site for MGP during their 2000 race meet. Commissioner Towslee's concern was that there would no longer be a site in Bend. He was assured the Triple Crown is and will still be operating as a site.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.