

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, APRIL 14 AT 1 PM. BY WEBEX VIDEO AND PHONE CONFERENCING

Directors Present: Leonard, Beals, Teefey, Engel, Fairley, Jones, Grummel, Husted, Brink, Searle, Hansen.

Directors Absent: Williams, Franco.

Others: Somone, Watson, Brubaker, Andrew Mack, Gary Mack.

Approval of April Agenda: Brink motions, Searle 2nd. Motion passes.

Approval of March BOD Minutes: Brink motions, Searle 2nd. Motion passes.

Executive Director Report: At the March IRB meeting we requested the revocation of the Hawthorne/Suburban Downs license primarily due to them not meeting their financial responsibility. We also requested that the IRB have a meeting scheduled in April. The 36 memberships that were sent out in mid-January and lost by the USPS have been found and deposited on March 30. Two weeks of the IHHA fees were received through the bankruptcy proceedings. Because of the anticipated problems in funding the IHHA, the finance committee met and agreed on more significant cuts to the 2026 budget. Had conversations with two people who control parcels of land in Matteson. Both are working with potential future casino companies to build a racino.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – The IHHA legislative team met with the Lucas team. They are working on language for a bill that could get all of the interested parties on the same page. Representative Rita has introduced a new bill that extends recapture. We will address that issue with him. Senator Joyce mentioned that there are groups looking closely at property in Matteson for a potential new racino. Our 708-grant money is currently in the budget. We must stay diligent that it remains there.

Grassroots and Membership – membership count stands at 214.

County Fairs – County fair guide should be sent out shortly. Finance committee has agreed to pay the driver/trainer insurance as we always do.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – nothing to report.

Legal – bankruptcy court continues forward. We, along with our attorneys, push on in attempting to get horsemen paid. If the IRB would start revocation proceedings for Hawthorne, it would be very beneficial to us. We believe that the judge will make a final ruling on Monday, April 20 on the final budget, which includes our money. Leaders from Hawthorne continue to tell us that they are committed to racing harness dates this year.

Purse Account – still waiting on something from this year.

Payment of Bills – Beals motions to pay the bills, Brink seconds, motion passes.

Finance – the finance committee met and adjusted our budget which should allow us to get close to the end of the year.

Public relations/social media –We will send out a newsletter type of e-mail after the bankruptcy proceedings on Monday, April 20.

Breeders – breeders hanging on, we can expect low foal crops.

Searle motioned to adjourn, Beals seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 1:45pm