

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 24 AT 1 PM. BY WEBEX VIDEO AND PHONE CONFERENCING

Directors Present: Leonard, Teefey, Grummel, Engel, Fairley, Husted, Searle, Williams, Orsini, Franco

Directors Absent: Beals, Hansen, Brink

Others: Somone, Watson.

Approval of August Agenda: Williams motions, Fairley 2nd. Motion passes.

Approval of July BOD Minutes: Williams motions, Searle 2nd. Motion passes.

Board welcomes Jori Orsini as a new board member.

Executive Director Report: I've been attending the bankruptcy hearings regularly, some in person, some remotely. Sales date for Hawthorne to turn over the property to Allimac is set for Sept. 1. The backstretch must be cleared out by August 31. Within bankruptcy court, Hawthorne lawyers continue to say they are trying to work out a deal to remain in horse racing. Our legal bills are currently at \$68k thru the end of July. We did receive \$25k from the bankruptcy court for money that Hawthorne owed for administrative fees. It is likely that we will not receive any more. Without any further income, the association will only be able to function until January or February of 2027. We have a few ideas on how to remedy this problem but will need legislative approval that we hope to seek in November. I testified in front of the Illinois Racing Board at its August 19 meeting. The gist of the presentation was that we needed to move forward without Hawthorne. Video will be posted to our website when available. Casey and I have had ongoing conversations with four different groups that are interested in developing the South Side Racino. All are awaiting clarity from the IRB regarding Hawthorne's license.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – Veto session is scheduled for three days in November and three days in December this year. Gabe Lopez was at the State Fair and reiterated that despite being off the IHHA payroll, he is still doing all he can to help us get back on our feet.

Grassroots and Membership – membership count remains unchanged at 224.

County Fairs – Waiting on purse money from some County Fairs while others have paid out everything. The lawsuit with Hawthorne has delayed some of the grant money but will be paid out as soon as Ag. receives it. Money for the Day of Champions races is expected to be about half of what they were when we raced at Hawthorne.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – a discussion ensued regarding the performance of Fairmount Park and the Springfield State Fair. Despite all of the rain that we had to deal with, everything proceeded as expected.

Legal – nothing other than the ongoing bankruptcy case.

Purse Account – nothing new to report.

Payment of Bills – Since the treasurer and the assistant treasurer were not in attendance, a motion to pay the monthly bills will take place at the September meeting

Finance – Nothing to add.

Public relations/social media – Nothing to add.

Breeders – Bad year for all.

Orsini motioned to adjourn, Searle seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 2:10pm

