

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 1 PM. BY WEBEX VIDEO AND PHONE CONFERENCING

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

Directors Absent: Franco, Fairley, Hansen.

Others: Somone, Watson.

Approval of July Agenda: Searle motions, Engel 2nd. Motion passes.

Approval of June BOD Minutes: Searle motions, Engel 2nd. Motion passes.

Executive Director Report: Because only five people decided to run there is no need for a formal election. Clark Fairley, Juan Franco, Craig Grummel, Kyle Husted and Jori Orsini have all been re-elected by acclamation through an e-mail sent to all voting members. We are working on the details for a one-hour detention barn at the state fairs, as we have done in past years. Because we haven't raced this year, the lines to get your IRB license are expected to be long. We will try and get the IRB to come to the fairgrounds a few days earlier to accommodate everyone. Our adjusted budget for operations is still on target for this year. Finding funding to sustain us in 2027 will be a challenge. Bankruptcy court continues. Allimac 2023 has purchased Hawthorne racetrack for \$90 million. Deciding how to pay the t-bred horsemen for three days of racing and how and when to relocate 500 horsemen and 450 horses is still being discussed. Right now, it appears as though August 31 will be the deadline to leave Hawthorne, with the closing sale date around the same time. There are other interested parties seeking the south suburban license. As soon as Hawthorne officially loses their license, we are told they will be ready with an application for 2027 dates. Hawthorne continues to hold out hope that they will be able to hang on to that south suburban license. There are still many balls in the air on how this will shake out. We should know more as each week passes and the court and the IRB make their decisions.

ACTION ITEMS:

Legislative – We have contributed to a few legislative fundraisers throughout the summer. Although, getting any substantive legislation passed in “Veto” session has always been challenging, getting a license for the Decatur project at that time seems critical.

Grassroots and Membership – membership count stands at 224.

County Fairs – some fairs are paying out purses immediately, others are only paying out partially on the day of.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch – nothing to report.

Legal – nothing other than the ongoing bankruptcy case.

Purse Account – nothing new to report.

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

Finance – Hopefully we can pay our bills until the end of the year.

Public relations/social media –With things heating up, its important to get the news out as quickly as possible.

Breeders – The Walker sale will be on Sept. 5th. The Illini Classic probably in early October.

Beals motioned to adjourn, Searle seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 2:15pm

