

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT 1 PM. AT THE IHHA OFFICE IN THE
DOWNSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM**

Directors Present: Davis, Leonard, Teefey, Searle, Jones, Grummel, Beals, Brink, Engel, Hansen, Fairley, Williams, Franco.

Directors Absent: Husted.

Others: Somone, Watson, Brubaker, Andrew Mack, Gary Mack, Rey Rodriguez, Larry Lucas, Connor Lucas.

Approval of September Agenda: Brink motions, Jones 2nd. Motion passes.

Approval of August BOD Minutes: Brink motions, Jones 2nd. Motion passes.

Larry and Connor Lucas spoke: We continue to meet with legislators to try and make Decatur Downs a reality. We have 200 acres under contract and are all in on making this happen. We appreciate our good relationship with the IHHA. A discussion regarding some specific strategies followed.

Executive Director Report: Springfield BBQ during the State Fair was very successful again. Special thanks to Brenda and Steve for all of their help. Attended Mike Paradise memorial and there were many older racetrack industry people asking about our future. The Dept. of Agriculture is re-doing the grant agreements with the state and subsequently it is delaying the payment of \$600k from the Horse Racing Fund to the purse account. We have met with Hawthorne recently to discuss the money owed to the IHHA and to the breeders and to discuss the 2026 dates.

Hawthorne/2nd Racetrack Update: We are hearing different things regarding a southside racino location. Hawthorne is saying they have secured a location. A lengthy discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEMS:

Election: After a lengthy, spirited discussion, Beals nominated Jeff Davis for President, Jones seconded. Hearing no other nominations at this point, Davis is elected President by acclamation. Motion made by Teefey to nominate the same officers as previous. Hansen seconds the motion. Hearing no others, the rest of the officers are elected by acclamation.

Legislative – Revolutionary Racing will now officially be referred to as Decatur Downs. The t-breds have hired a new lobbyist which could be very helpful to all of us. We must pay close attention to the 708/709 funds which are set to be non-appropriated funds in July 2026. Veto session may be truncated this year.

Grassroots and Membership – current membership is at 366.

County Fairs – the newly formed association for the county fairs are working through grant paperwork with the Dept. of Agriculture.

Race Track Condition and Backstretch –no report.

Legal – no report.

Purse Account – last report shows us about \$3m in the hole, started the year at \$3.7 in the hole. We anticipate finishing the year at about the same, breaking even for the year.

Payment of Bills – Beals motions to pay all bills from August 11 through today, Fairley seconds, motion passes.

Finance – no report.

Public relations/social media – We should be ready to discuss our participation for the Hall of Fame at our next meeting.

Breeders – Walker sold 59 yearlings; the Illini sold 110. It was much better than anticipated.

Executive Session at 3:45pm, returned at 5:05

Beals motioned to adjourn, Brink seconds, motion passes. Meeting adjourns at 5:10pm

