

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

April 24, 2019 4 pm — Northville Downs

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
 - a. Moment of Silence - Jim Maedel
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – March 20th, 2019 (Unanimous)
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett about the transfer of the escrow funds from the Thoroughbred horsemen's purse account. Their president has recently resigned his position and the organization is looking at options moving forward. He expressed to the board that while there may be some short term monetary gain from the escrow dollars the trend is still bad sign for the horse racing industry and the reality is that without legislation to increase revenues and gaming at Michigan race tracks horse racing will continue this trend. The MHHA continues to push for new tools and increased revenue and hope to work collaboratively with all equine organizations to achieve that goal.
5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell

Treasurer Terrell gave a financial update and indicated her support for increased purses at Northville Downs based on the incoming handle amounts. She suggested spending 50k per night as a target. She also suggested putting the escrow money in to a separate money market account in the short term.
6. MHHA Member Comments: Marylyn provided an update from the USTA related to Scanners for the race tracks and the need to seek a scanner for the summer colt stakes program.
7. Old Business:
 - a. Approval of the Eligibility of Summer Program Horses -Global Furniture LLC
The Board determined that the horse Tristen was not eligible for the summer colt stakes program based on the required conditions based on the ownership of the mare the horse was bred from being owned partially by global furniture LLC out of New Jersey.
 - b. Updated number of horses by summer program. Midwest Strategy Group provided the board with an update list of horses in each summer program.
8. New Business:
 - a. Escrow Money Update – The board discussed the escrow dollars mentioned previously in the treasurer's report.
 - b. HRMC Thank You Letter – President Barrett mentioned that we did receive a thank you letter for our support of the HRMC efforts on the federal level, despite there not being any real action taken.
 - d. Communications/MHHA phones Issues – Board Member Marotta fielded some complaints about phone calls in to the MHHA and wanted to discuss with the board potential ways to improve communication.

- e. NVD Barn Area – Board Member Marotta wanted to discuss some of the ongoing issues in the Northville Downs barn area that she had received some complaints about.
- g. Advertisement for fair book – Board Member Marotta wanted to discuss the potential for advertisements in the summer fair book. There are opportunities for individuals to seek advertisements, but the new fairbook has a slightly different format from previous years.
- h. Fair Awards – Board Member Marotta wanted to discuss the potential to provide fair awards at different race tracks this summer. We have been working with Duke Cook to provide blankets and other options.
- i. Detroit Horse Power outing @ Northville Downs – Board Member Davidson gave an update about the students from Detroit who are scheduled to spend a day at the racetrack learning about the equine industry.

9. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group

Midwest Strategy Group gave an update on the gaming legislation currently moving in Lansing. The current bills continue to have problematic language included in the package that would prevent race tracks from getting the type of tools needed for long term success. We continue to actively work with lawmakers to ensure that any legislation or package moving forward is positive both short term and long term for the industry,

10. Board of Director Comments:

Davidson: June 9th is Gate Training Day at Fowlerville. The MHHA voted to approve \$500.00 (Marotta/Taylor/Unanimous) to help cover the cost of providing the gate training.

Davidson: Todd Hacker, who provided the water truck at the fairs is seeking a 10 dollar/day raise for his work at the summer circuit. The board was pleased with his work last summer and agreed to the motion. (Davidson/Kelly/Unanimous)

Terrell: The MI Horse Council Legislative Day was moved from May to September.

Davidson: A Scholarship Committee was created with Board members Davidson and Earls and non-board member Rachel Schroder to review the scholarship applications and make a recommendation on award winners.

11. Next Board Meeting: April 17; 4pm Location TBD

12. Meeting Adjourned - 5:51