

## Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

Feb 20, 2018 4 pm — Northville Downs

### MEETING Minutes

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett  
In Attendance: West, Goodwin, Barrett, Davidson, Embach, Earls, Terrell
2. Approval of Agenda – Motion was made to add a discussion about the resignation and replacement of Keith Crawford for the MHHA Board. The board selected Chuck Taylor to serve out the remainder of Keith Crawford's Term on the board. (Motion, Goodwin; Second, Embach; Unanimous). A motion was made to appoint Crystal Terrell to Executive Committee, a position held by Keith Crawford. (Motion, Goodwin; Second, Embach; Unanimous).  
  
The board also added the discussion of a letter to fair boards and raffles at the fairs to the Agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes – Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett congratulated and thanked Director Davidson on putting together a successful annual banquet. He informed the board of the lame duck fight that was had over the gaming package that was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. He discussed briefly the race meet license that was awarded to Sports Creek and ultimately returned (and that there would be no racing at Sports Creek in 2019).
5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Serra gave her monthly treasurers report suggesting that handle continued to be stable at Northville Downs. It was up in 2018 over 2017, and that with a split meet the MHHA is in good shape to have purse funds available for the 2019 race season.
6. MHHA Member Comments:
7. Old Business:
  - a. Summer Program Update – Director Terrell gave an update on the summer program.
8. New Business:
  - a. Scholarship – Director Davidson asked that the scholarship application be posted to the MHHA website. Once applications are received the MHHA will designate a committee to determine which applicants should receive a scholarship and at what contribution level.
  - b. Text Message System Update – Director Embach wanted to revisit a discussion about implementing a text message alert system for horsemen. In previous discussions, the board had sought to utilize an opt in system, but the opt in system didn't receive enough interest from members. The board adopted an opt out policy tonight that will increase the amount of phone numbers placed in to

the system allowing a text message option to be more cost effective. (Motion, Embach; Second, Earls, Passed 7-1 with Terrell Opposed)

- c. Approval of a Lifetime Membership for Phil Peden – The Board approved the life time membership for Phil Peden who is eligible for the designation based on age and length of membership. (Motion, Embach; Second, West; Unanimous)
- d. Banquet Recap – Director Davidson gave a recap of the Annual Banquet and the board discussed booking the same venue for the same weekend in 2020 based on the success of the previous 2 banquets hosted at Cleary University (4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in January) The total cost for the banquet was about 2k after all expenses, but raised about 4k for the scholarship and PAC.
- e. Michigan Horse Council Expo - email requesting approval of funding sent to the board on Jan 31st – Director Terrell sought a 2k budget for the MI Horse Council Expo (Motion, Goodwin; Second, West; Unanimous)
- f. Michigan Horse Council Legislative event - MHHA representation – Director Terrell highlighted the MI Horse councils May 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Day in Lansing and asked the board to consider attending this year. The board also discusses the possibility of a whiteboard video promoting the industry with a budget of 1500 to be matched by another entity. (Motion, West; Second, Embach, Unanimous)
- h. 2019 Northville Downs Meet incentives - horse supply – President Barrett asked the board to think about 2019 Meet incentives to increase the horse supply at Northville Downs, particularly in the early part of the meet. There was a discussion about how to attract horsemen to Northville Downs to ensure the box is filled on a weekly basis.
- i. Illinois Harness Horsemen Association - collaboration on meet for horse supply/full fields Hawthorne meet - May 3rd to September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Director Terrell discussed the potential collaboration with the Illinois Harness Horsemen’s Association on some time of agreement where their horsemen could race in Northville and our horsemen could be ensured they would get in at Hawthorn.
- j. 2018 foal report - USTA - MI Sired and MI Bred – Director Terrell gave a 2018 foal report update to the board suggesting the number of foals in 2018 is down compared to 2017.
- k. Summer Program Handouts – Director Marotta could not attend and this was tabled until the March Meeting.
- i. Director Embach talked about sending some letter from the MHHA to fairboards to encourage more participation In summer programming.
- j. Director Embach talked about the possibility of a raffle during fair races that would help support the fairs and/or purses.

9. Legislative Policy/Report – Mike Krombeen of Midwest Strategy Group gave a legislative update informing the board that the gaming legislation was extremely likely to be introduced in the coming weeks and that the problematic language added to the ADW bill in lame duck was likely going to continue to be an issue. In lame duck that language was supported by MTOBA and the HBPA, although in a public post on their website the HBPA did recognize that the language was problematic.

10. Board of Director Comments: None

11. Next Board Meeting: March 20; 4pm Location Northville Downs

12. Meeting Adjourned

