

## Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

March 20, 2019 4 pm — Northville Downs

### MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
2. Approval of Agenda (Motion Davidson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Embach, Unanimous)
3. Approval of Minutes – Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (Motion Terrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Goodwin, Unanimous)
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave an update about the start of the spring meet at Northville Downs, he highlighted the need to purchase or borrow a golf cart for use at Northville Downs on live race days. He informed the board and membership that Northville was interested in talking about extending the contract for live racing in the future but that this was the first step in negotiations.
5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave an update about the ability, because of conservative estimates, to increase purses at Northville Downs based on the revenue coming in. She suggested ensuring that Northville was racing for 50k per night of live racing.
6. MHHA Member Comments: None.
7. Old Business:
  - a. Text Message System Update – EZ Texting – Midwest Strategy Group
    - The board opted to move forward on a pay as you go system that will be used to alert the membership on an opt out basis for items like cancelations due to weather.
  - b. MI Horse Council Expo Update – Crystal Terrell updated the board on the success of attending the Horse Council Expo with Northville Downs. Northville Downs agreed, and has remitted to the MHHA, the costs associated with attending the event.
8. New Business:
  - a. Approval of the Eligibility of Colt Stakes Horses – The board was provided information on the horses who nominated to the colt stakes program, but no formal eligibility items were voted on.
  - b. Update on Number of Horses for Great Lakes Stakes, Breeders Stakes, and Sire Stakes Program – The board packet included a breakdown of horses nominated to each program. The breeders stakes and great lakes stakes nomination deadline was the 15<sup>th</sup> of March and those nominations could still be in the mail.

- c. USTA Microchip Readers for Northville Downs and the State of Michigan – Per new USTA rules surrounding microchipping, each track will receive one scanner, but associations and tracks are encouraged to purchase additional scanners for use. The board talked about the need to potentially get a scanner for use at the fairs in the summer.
  - d. ACCESS Loyalty Program/Membership Discussion – The board was provided with information on a membership discount program that functions online but might provide some benefits to MHHA members.
  - e. PAC Management Agreement – The board voted on a PAC management contract worth 1500.00 annually for handling all bank deposits, check remitting, and state regulatory and reporting necessary for the MHHA political action committee. (Motion Davidson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Terrell, Unanimous)
9. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave a policy update related to the gaming packages introduced in both the House and Senate in Lansing. The Casinos continue to push for language in the horse racing act that would prohibit any new tools from being implemented at the tracks that would insure their profitability and that would increase revenue for horsemen. The MHHA remains committed to supporting legislation that modernizes and adds new tools to race tracks, doesn't limit future opportunities, and increases revenues for tracks and horsemen.
10. Board of Director Comments: Davidson: Sought input on how best to deal with a Jackson Raceway Sign and if the MHHA would like to auction it off or sell it online.
- Embach: Sought a vote to give Carl Putnam Jr lifetime membership status with the MHHA (Embach, Goodwin, Unanimous)
11. Next Board Meeting: April 19; 4pm Location TBD – This was later postponed one week due to scheduling conflicts.
12. Meeting Adjourned

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