

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

May 22, 2019 4 pm — Northville Downs

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
 - a. Moment of Silence
 - i. Keith Hough
 - ii. Diane Norris
2. Approval of Agenda (Davidson/Embach/Unanimous)
3. Approval of Minutes – April 24th, 2019 (Davidson/Marotta/Unanimous)
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett

President Barrett gave a brief update and indicated that the MHHA was close to renewing/extending a contract with Northville Downs with the target being a 5-year contract.

5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell (absent) – Midwest Strategy Group gave a quick update in the absence of the treasurer and pointed to the slightly above expected revenues in the financial attachments. Northville Downs revenue was up and as such so was the purse account and the expected revenue from the MI Ag Equine Fund.

6. MHHA Member Comments: (None)

7. Old Business:

- a. MHHA Scholarship Winners – Final Board Approval of Committee Recommendation – The board approved two scholarships. The first-place winner, John Bangert received \$2,000.00 dollars and the 2nd place recipient, Jarrett Bateson, received \$1,000.00. Checks are being mailed directly to their institutions. (Davidson/Embach/Unanimous).
- b. EZ Texting Update – MWSG provided an update on a new texting service (opt out) that is launching with the summer stakes program to more easily reach members. The program costs 5 cents per delivered text message, but allows us to quickly blast members with reminders to enter and weather updates.

8. New Business:

- a. Detroit Horse Power outing @ Northville Downs – Claudia Davidson provided a quick update about the Detroit Power Outing at Northville Downs, but there was some question as to how much benefit the MHHA received from continuing to host the event, especially since the MHHA is not allowed to talk about anything related to the betting or how the betting operates.

- b. 2019 Fairbook Draft – The board approved the 2019 fairbook for print with a small edit that it include a list of fairs currently scheduled to host charting services.
 - c. Starting Car Contract for Fairs (Joe Hollenbeck) – Board Member Davidson brought up concerns related to the refundable cost of covering the starting cars at the fairs. The cost of the starting car continues to go up, but the cap for fair reimbursement has been flat for several years.
 - d. Closed Session Discussion – The Board went in to closed session, but approved a 500-dollar stipend for board members for their service on the board. That amount is flat from last year.
9. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave a quick legislative update on the gaming bills. The legislature is expected to break for the summer and will not return until August where the budget and roads is expected to take up a lot of the energy in Lansing.
10. Board of Director Comments: (None)
11. Next Board Meeting: September 25th; 4pm Location TBD
12. Meeting Adjourned

