

## Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

April 18, 2018 4 pm - Northville Downs

### MEETING AGENDA.

8 of the 10 board members were present; board member Earls and board member Sweeney were absent.

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett called the meeting to order at 4:02
  - a. Moment of Silence
    - i. Floyd Dreffs
    - ii. Roy Fedd
    - iii. Tom Zapalski
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2017 – Minutes were approved unanimously (Motion made by Serra, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Crawford)

4. President's Report – Tom Barrett

President Barrett gave an update on what the MHHA knows and doesn't know yet related to the closure of Hazel Park Raceway. There is going to be a yet to be determined impact on the Ag Equine Development Fund based on the loss of wagers at Hazel Park. The purse money from Hazel Park, according to the racing act, is to be placed in escrow. He also provided detail of the previous weekends racing (sat night) and the impact the weather had on the racing. Lastly, he spoke about the decision by Northville Downs to sell an option to a developer, but the plan to continue to race at Northville Downs through 2020.

5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Serra  
Treasurer Serra provided an update and talked through the financial attachments provided to the board members. More specifically, she provided context to the MHHAs decision to use escrow funds to help supplement purses. She provided updated handle numbers at Northville Downs with a comparison to last year, which is up slightly year to date.
6. MHHA Member Comments:
7. Old Business:
  - a. Farewell to Jackson Update - Claudia Davidson gave a brief update on the Farwell to Jackson Event. They currently have billboard up and the event is moving forward.
  - b. Colt Stakes Advertising Update – Crystal Serra provided an update on the colt stakes advertising. Although we have not yet received the final click through numbers from USTA the advertising was prominently displayed on the USTA website and linked directly to the MHHA website for the program.
  - c. Website Consultation Update – Crystal Serra indicated she was working with the web developer to implement some of the changes/recommendations from the consultation. Board members with additional insight should feel free to reach out with suggestions.

- d. 2018 Membership Numbers Updated – As of this meeting there were 162 paid members for 2018. That number does not include the Lifetime Members.
  - e. Text Message Sign Up Sheet – The text message notification sign-up sheet is live on the MHHA Facebook.
  - f. Breeders/Great Lakes Stakes Update – As of this meeting there are 48 horses nominated to the Breeders Stakes and 126 horses nominated to the Great Lakes Stakes.
8. New Business:
- a. Hazel Park Closure Update – The board discusses the ramifications of the closure of Hazel Park and the ripple impact it will create for the summer program and for the purse pool at Northville Downs.
  - b. Northville Downs Update – The board discussed the impact the option to sell Northville Downs in 2020 will have on the MHHA and the desire by Northville Downs to build a new racetrack in the region for 2021.
  - c. Ag Equine Fund Update – The board discussed the potential revenue cut to the Ag Equine Fund as a result of the closure of Hazel Park. It's potentially too early to tell how much of a revenue decline there may be.
  - d. Colt Stakes Blankets – The Board discussed the desire to provide Colt Stakes Blankets again this year to winners. Secretary Marotta is looking into specific options for blankets.
  - e. MHHA Scholarship Update – Board member Davidson led a discussion on the MHHA Scholarship. There were five individuals who submitted applications for the MHHA Scholarship. After deliberation by the board, and based on scoring provided by the Scholarship Committee, the board voted unanimously (Board Member Goodwin abstained from the vote and left the room due to a potential conflict of interest) to award three scholarships:
    - i. \$2,000.00 Samantha Black
    - ii. \$2,000.00 Randy Bangert
    - iii. \$1,000.00 Leslie Shull
  - f. Northville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade – Treasurer Serra informed the board she was planning on working with and seeking volunteers to walk in the Northville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.
  - g. The board added a discussion related to the foals of 2017 sire stakes early nomination process. The starting fee is being adjusted to \$250.00 or 1% whichever is greater per a unanimous vote of the board (Motion by Goodwin, 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by Embach).
9. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group provided an update related to the gaming bills currently under consideration in the Michigan Legislature. HB 4611 (ADW) is still sitting on the Senate floor awaiting action.
10. Board of Director Comments
11. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – Northville Downs
12. Meeting Adjourned (motion by Crawford, 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by Embach, Passed Unanimously)