

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

December 18th, 2019 4 pm — Northville Downs

MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
2. Motion to Excuse Absent Members: Embach and West (Motion Sweeney, 2nd Davidson)
3. Approval of Agenda (Motion Davidson, 2nd Sweeny)
4. Approval of Minutes – October 23rd, 2019 (Motion Marotta, 2nd Earls)
5. President's Report – Tom Barrett spoke briefly about the need to confirm the responsibility of vets who are at Northville during the live meet heading in to 2020. He gave a a brief update about the extended contract between Northville Downs and the MHHA (through 2024), and an update about the pending option to the Northville Downs Property.
6. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave an update about the annual HHI dues which we flat from the previous year. She also gave an update on the annual report done by Manner Casterian on the finances of the MHHA. That document is available to members in person, but copies will not be mailed out or sent electronically.
7. MHHA Member Comments:
 - a. Special Guest – Bill Frank, Michigan Gaming Control Board spoke to the group briefly about rules modifications, specifically as it relates to USTA vs ARCI on the administering of certain medications prior to racing. A decision was not yet made by MGCB, but they are actively seeking input.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Summer Program Changes – Draft Nomination Book. The board approved a book (1 document with all of the programs) vs individual program documents to reduce confusion of members who may be eligible for more than one summer program.
 - b. Annual Meeting Update – Board member Davidson gave an update on the annual meeting. The MHHA has booked a magician for that event.
 - c. 2020 Stallion Directory – Midwest Strategy Group gave an update on the 2020 stallion directory that will be made available on the website and in hard copy at the annual meeting.
9. New Business:

a. Awards Approval – Claudia Davidson provided a list of award winners as recommended by the award committee. It was approved by the board unanimously (Motion Sweeny, 2nd Davidson)

b, 2020 Budget Approval – Crystal Terrell provided the board with a 2020 budget for approval. It was approved by the board unanimously (Motion Sweeny, 2nd Goodwin)

c. 2020 Membership Tax Exemption Status – Crystal Terrell informed the board that the accountants at Manner Casterian recommended based on the increase lobbying activity of the organization in relation to SB 661 that we not suggest that membership dues are tax deductible. The Board agreed unanimously to change the disclaimer on the membership form related to charitable tax deductibility. (Motion Earls, 2nd Moratta)

d. 2020 Colt Stakes MDARD Recap – Crystal Terrell gave an update related to the 2020 Colt Stakes Program with MDARD. In January, the fairs host an annual meeting and softly request fair dates.

e. 2020 Blankets – Teresa Marotta advised the board that it is time to start looking at 2020 summer program winner awards/blankets.

f. Job Duties of Elected Officers/Communications – Teresa Marotta wanted to have a discussion about the job duties of elected officers and a general conversation about board member involvement and communications moving forward.

g. Jog Cart Wheels – Board members Davidson informed the board that the jog cart purchased by the MHHA for use at special events would likely require new wheels.

10. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group provided an update as it related to the pending gaming package as well as SB 661 (historic horse racing) heading in to 2020.

11. Board of Director Comments: None

12. Next Board Meeting: January 25th (Annual Meeting) Cleary University 4pm.

13. Meeting Adjourned