

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association

December 16th, 2021 4pm – Northville Downs

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
 - a) Moment of Silence - Tim Second, Tim Martinson, Kenneth Carlisle, Sheridan (Dan) Ruse
2. Motion to Excuse Absent Members – No Absent Board Members
3. Approval of Agenda – President Barrett Added “Discuss Northville Downs Contract” to the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda with the addition was made (Davidson), Seconded (Sweeney), and passed Unanimous.
4. Approval of Past Minutes – (Davidson/Marotta/Unanimous)
5. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave the President's report and highlighted the recent work the Horse Racing Advisory Commission was doing including the \$125,000 appropriated for the commission which will be available in January. He noted that the commission was working to develop a deeper relationship with the MSU Large Animal Vet Program. He also highlighted that he was in Lansing last week to testify in support for the Senate Gaming Package in the House Regulatory Reform Committee. That legislation is through the Senate, but needs to be passed by the House then signed by the Governor before it can take effect.
6. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave the Treasurer's Report. She highlighted the monthly P+L for October and noted that the organization continues to be in the Black. However, she indicated that the organization would likely see increased costs for fair track maintenance. We've seen good outcomes and better track surfaces by contracting out work ahead of the summer fair program, but those costs continue to grow especially as we add more tracks to the summer fair program. She indicated that purses would continue to be at roughly 65k a night when Northville opens for the Spring meet. The addition of ADW revenue (passed in 2019) is the primary reason for the increase in 2021 and 2022 to purses.
7. MHHA Member Comments: Marilyn Bertera offered several suggestions/comments including adding the absent members to the board minutes (reflected in these minutes above). She had concerns about the cancelation policy and procedures after the day of lost live racing due to weather at Northville Downs. She also expressed her displeasure with the cameras at Northville Downs. She also had questions about potential grants available through the HRAC. NOTE: That Grant process is not yet set up as funding comes available in January, but we should have more details on those grants in 2022.
8. Old Business:
 - a) Draft 2022 Summer Program – The summer program will include 5 new races for MI sired horses and keep all the other races from the previous year. The board also approved up to \$3,000 in costs related to the water truck (Sweeny/Pluta/Unanimous)

b) 2022 Annual Meeting Update – The annual meeting will take place on Sunday Jan 23rd at 5pm in Howell at Crystal Gardens.

9. New Business:

a) Election Update – The election ballots were mailed to all active and lifetime members. Our certified accounting firm will be accepting the return ballots and counting the results. We will know the winners on January 6th, Ballots must be received by January 5th.

b) CRM/Member Management Software – The board approved an initial investment up to a \$6,000 spend on an online member management software (Terrell/West/Unanimous)

c) 2022 Licensing – 2022 Licensing will be available shortly. The MHHA is working with MGCB on information and process and will get that information out to members.

d) ADW Allocation for '22 and '23 – The board voted to allocate the current ADW revenues to the MHHA as 70% for Purses at Northville Downs, 25% for Purses in the summer program, 4% to GF for administration costs, and 1% to a MHHA benevolent fund.

(West/Goodwin/Unanimous)

e) 2022 Stallion Directory – The board voted to move forward on a breeder's book.

(Crystal/Goodwin) The motion passed 9-1 with Sweeney opposed.

10. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave a legislative update highlighting the recent committee hearing in Lansing on the Senate Gaming Package. The legislation would authorize historical horse racing terminals or video lottery terminals at racetracks. Additionally, it would increase breeders awards to up to 20% and remove the cap on overnight race purses at the county fairs. That legislation will need to receive a vote in the Regulatory Reform Committee in the House and then a House Floor vote before going to the Governor for a signature.

11. Board of Director Comments: Claudia Davidson thanked the board for the financial support for the Red Barn at the Fowlerville Fair.

12. RECOMMENDED CLOSED SESSION – MHHA 2021 Awards and Northville Down's Contract

13. Next Board Meeting: Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 23rd

14. Meeting Adjourned

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