

## **Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association**

March 21, 2018 4 pm - Northville Downs

### **MEETING MINUTES.**

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett  
Moment of silence for Joe Bramberger and Leonard "Mo" Millburn
2. Approval of Agenda (Motion by Davidson/2<sup>nd</sup> by West – Approved Unanimously)
3. Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2017 (Motion by Davidson/2<sup>nd</sup> by Serra – Approved Unanimously)
4. President's Report – Tom Barrett  
President Barrett gave a brief update regarding the March 10 cancellation of live racing due to lack of entries. There was a meeting between the MHHA, MGCB, and Northville Downs about horse supply and a decision was made to do a double draw on Monday's. President Barrett spoke about the potential use of licensed track money from the Ag Equine Fund for MOB races at Northville Downs rather than the mini-series model the MHHA had been running.
5. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Serra  
Treasurer Serra gave a brief update related to finances including purse levels, use of escrow dollars, and general health of the accounts.
6. MHHA Member Comments:
7. Old Business:
  - a. Farewell to Jackson Update - Claudia Davidson gave an update on the progress for their summer event which seems to be going well. A large number of out of state and retired horsemen will be attending, The next step is figuring out what MHHA involvement at the event looks like, potentially a booth, sponsorships, etc.
  - b. Colt Stakes Advertising Update – Crystal Serra gave an update about our advertising on the USTA website. Click through data is not yet available, but should be y next meeting.
  - c. Website Consultation Update – Crystal Serra provided board members with a report from the website consultation service that was provided with a list of recommendations for website improvement.
  - d. Colt Stakes Eligibility – Midwest Strategy Group gave an update about eligibility for the Colt Stakes. The board voted (Unanimously) to approve the eligibility of all the horses nominated to the Colt Stakes with the exception of "Sorry not Sorry" as that horse was not Michigan bred or Michigan sired.
  - e. 2018 Membership Mailing – The Board approved (Unanimously) a membership mailing to collect all outstanding 2018 dues.
8. New Business:
  - a. PAC conversation – Crystal Serra led a conversation about what potential exists to raise PAC dollars for the MHHA.

- b. Breeders, Sire Stakes, and Great Lakes Stakes Numbers by class – Midwest Strategy Group provided initial number for eligibility to the Sire Stakes, Great Lakes Stakes, and Breeders Stakes summer programs.
- c. Text service for 2018 Summer Program – The board approved (Unanimously) the build out of an opt-in text message service for the 2018 summer program.

9. Legislative Policy/Report

- a. Midwest Strategy Group provided an update on HB 4611 as well as context of where all gaming related bills currently sit in the legislative process. It appears that the gaming bills will be held over until the lame duck session (after the 2018 Nov Elections)

10. Board of Director Comments: None

11. Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 – Northville Downs

12. Meeting Adjourned -