

Michigan Harness Horsemen's Association
September 16th, 2021 4pm – Northville Downs
MEETING MINUTES

1. Meeting called to order - President Tom Barrett
2. Motion to Excuse Absent Members – (Taylor/Pluta/Unanimous)
3. Approval of Agenda – (Davidson/Taylor/Unanimous)
4. Approval of Past Minutes (Davidson/Taylor/Unanimous)
5. President's Report – Tom Barrett gave an update on the latest meeting of the Horse Racing Advisory Commission and a recent NAHHA Meeting highlighting a number of issues across the country that are impacting horse racing.
6. Treasurer's Report – Crystal Terrell gave an update noting that ADW revenue was meeting our estimates. She also indicated that the cost of fair track maintenance was likely going to be higher this summer given the number of days impacted by rain and the need for more work on those tracks to get them ready for racing.
7. MHHA Member Comments: Marilyn Bertera gave an update on the latest work the USTA was doing related to HISA and the ongoing lawsuits. HISA is not likely to impact us in Michigan as there is not currently any thoroughbred racing in the state.
8. Old Business:
 - a) Fair Program Update – The board discussed the ongoing summer fair program and the number of rescheduled days due to weather.
 - b) Return to Live Racing Conversation – The board had a conversation about a number of items related to the return of live racing at Northville including qualifiers, facilities, and the race office.
 - c) USTA Microchipping Policy – Starts Jan '22 – The board was reminded that the USTA microchipping policy takes effect next year and to help inform the members to be ready.
9. New Business:
 - a) Special Guest Mike Way gave a presentation to the board about a Hall of Fame Proposal where he envisions a physical hall of fame (potentially at Jackson) highlighting harness racing in Michigan.
 - b) Proposed 2022 Program Changes – The board discusses the potential to modify the summer program from next year in an attempt to add opportunities for the MI Sired horses while not taking away any opportunities from MI bred horses.
 - c) Horse Counsel Expo – The board discussed the desire to participate in the Horse Council expo in March of next year and the need to reserve a booth.
 - d) Elections Procedures – The board was reminded of the bylaw requirements for our MHHA elections and that we would likely see petitions from interested individuals coming in to the MHHA over the next month.

- e) Banquet Final Report – The board talked about the recent annual meeting and potential ways to improve it for 2022.
 - f) MI Sired Horses – The board was informed that we are seeing an increase in MI sired horses here in Michigan.
 - g) Website Conversation – The board talked about the potential to update the website more frequently with news stories.
 - h) Lifetime Member Candidate – Marianne Haynes was granted lifetime membership status.
10. Legislative Policy/Report – Midwest Strategy Group gave a brief update on the on-going legislative efforts and senate gaming package to authorize either VLTs or HHR in Michigan.
 11. Board of Director Comments: None
 13. Next Board Meeting: October 21st; 4pm @ Northville Downs
 14. Meeting Adjourned 7PM