

**MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMEN ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 16, 2023
@NAGE MANAGEMENT OFFICE 2501 JOLLY RD, OKEMOS, MI**

PRESENT: Scott Altizer, Tom Barrett, Brett Boyd (by zoom), Claudia Cary Davidson, Jerry Earls, Teresa Marotta, Kim Pluta, Crystal Terrell, Greg West.

ABSENT: Charles Taylor

GUEST: Legislative Rep David Ladd (by zoom), Katy Stanke, Tim Roach, Jessica Stevens, William Gira, Steve Wing, Marilyn Bertera, Corey Pondersmith, Rebecca Sievert, Jackie Holton

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Barrett called the meeting to order at 4:10 pm. A moment of silence for Michael St Charles, Zlatko Blazevski, Tony Smith, David Wells, Willy Florence.

Motion: Greg West moved to excuse the absence of Charles Taylor, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

GUEST COMMENTS:

- Huntington Bank Rep Corey Pondersmith, Rebecca Sievert, and Jackie Holton addressed the board regarding the current accounts, options for the accounts and fraud protection.
Motion: Brett Boyd moved to allow the ADW, Colt, Futurity and General accounts into a Sweep account with Fraud protection and allow Electric transfers, with a 30-day cycle, and for the board to receive monthly account balances of each account at the monthly board meetings, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Marilyn Bertera addressed the board on behalf of the USTA. The USTA is offering a Broadcasting Grant to all fairs. Crystal Terrell submitted a proposal to the USTA on behalf of the MHHA for the summer fair program Facebook live broadcasting and was awarded a grant of \$5,000.00 USTA has a new website harnessracing.com new rules change to include all race track infield ponds are enclosed with fencing, pending racing commission approval. Stallion frozen semen after a death of a stallion will be allowed for two years. A standardbred career after racing program to be recognized as another discipline within the show industry. She also discussed the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Add new business Drag for Fairs and Benevolent Funds.

Motion: Crystal Terrell moved to accept the agenda with the additions, supported by Teresa Marotta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of February 15, 2023, reviewed.

Motion: Crystal Terrell moved to accept the minutes with amendments, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING REPORTS:

1. **PRESIDENT REPORT:** Tom Barrett reported on the Plymouth Township meeting with Township Board and public. Planning commission site approval by mid-April

and mid-summer. MHHA has requested a site plan to review before completion. Discussion on our request for facility layout.

2. **TREASURER REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reported on the February month end financials. General discussion of the organization's financial condition and outlook based on the reports.
3. **LEGISLATIVE REPORT:** David Ladd reports a draft of boilerplate language is being written to transfer the funds from the TB line to STB line. Agi Sub-committee chair in the House and Senate are not opposed to our bills, the MHHA budget correction for AEIDF expected before June. Two new bills are in process of being drafted to update the horse racing act, expected completion before the end of the year. Meeting with Rosemary Byer and Mike Krombeen support the Plymouth race track. The Legislative agenda and calendar is very full, so our bills are delayed.
4. **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT:** No report
5. **PARI-MUTUEL TRACK REPORT:** No report
6. **COLT STAKES REPORT:** Crystal Terrell reports: 142 Mi sired 2–3-year-olds and 120 Mi Bred 2–3-year-olds are staked to date. Fair stake schedule is pending until the budget process is completed. With the current budget, MHHA may consider cancelling the Breeders Futurity and or the Fair Final race or lower purse amounts.
Motion: Brett Boyd moved to not cancel the Breeders Futurity and honor the nominating and sustaining payments, race for decreased purse, pending budget, and to wave the qualifying rules, if possible, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
7. **HORSE RACING ADVISORY REPORT:** Tom Barrett reports the Advisory Board has approved the budget for Trot and Pace promotional videos. Discussion on the horse racing advisory board could support a grant to seed the pools for carry-overs at NVD. NVD is working with the USTA on carry-over pool strategies. Finger printing is a federal law horsemen will not be allowed to racing until the finger prints are completed, to include a back ground check. License and finger prints will be renewed every two years. Thank You for all the volunteer help at the Horse Council Expo this past weekend.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **PROPOSED FAIR SCHEDULE:** Crystal proposed draft that was presented at the MAFE convention in Grand Rapids in January, there have been no changes from what was presented to the fairs in January. Final schedule is pending the state budget approval.
2. **CONTRACT EXTENSION NVD:** Brett Boyd, Kim Pluta and Marilyn Bertera asked if MHHA will have the opportunity to review plans of the paddock layout at the new facility. Tom Barrett indicated he will request and circulate to the MHHA Board of Directors. NVD has requested to extend the contract for another five years, subject to future negotiations. Tabled to next month.
3. **MHHA CONCERN DOCUMENTATION:** Jerry Earls reports member complaint forms to be filled out by horsemen with possible resolutions, and given to a MHHA director and/or the Ngage office. The MHHA will address the concerns, resolutions to fix the problem, and response to member upon completion. Jerry Earls to manage the forms and complaint issues, and keep a record of issues presented.

4. **BANQUET PROPOSAL:** Katy Stanke reports Radisson and Crowne Plaza both have accommodations for rooms, meeting rooms, bar, and diner with available date of January 20, 2024..
Motion: Brett Boyd moved to book Crown Plaza for January 20th, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. **STALLION DIRECTORY:** Crystal Terrell reports advertising income covering the cost of USTA pedigrees and reports, printing and mailing. Board was provided with a list of breeders with outstanding invoices due. 300 books mailed to membership; they were very well received.
6. **PHONE LOG:** Katy Stanke reports the phone log from January to March reviewed. Calls are being taken in person and questions are being answered. Will continue for a few more months and reevaluate for the future need.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **OVERNIGHT PURSE STRUCTURE:** Crystal Terrell reports if the budget does not fund the program completely MHHA may need to lower the purse or cut the number of races, or discontinue the program. Tim Roach suggested to limit the number of races to not conflict with Northville Downs. Write the conditions for young horses and not aged horses. Tabled until next month when budget is confirmed.
2. **COLT STAKE MINIMUM PURSE LEVEL:** Brett Boyd suggest a minimum purse level may not be feasible until the budget and legislation are completed. Tabled until the next meeting.
3. **DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:** Crystal Terrell reports the current software Member clicks is not meeting the originations needs. Katy Stanke recommends Wild Apricot, this database will allow for editing of accounts, Quick Books, and user friendly.
Motion: Teresa Marotta moved to change to Wild Apricot for \$2,600.00 yearly fee, supported by Claudia Davidson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **BY-LAW CHANGE:** Crystal Terrell reported
Motion: Brett Boyd moved to approve by-law changes of Section 2- Expenditures A. Expenditures of the association shall be paid by check, ACH, EFT or other electronic means. 2. No payments shall be made until the association has received a proper invoice and the Treasurer as directed by the Board of Directors has approved the invoice before payment. Board of Directors will be provided a summary of expenditures paid at each board meeting. Supported by Crystal Terrell, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. **FAIR BLANKETS:** Teresa Marotta reported, needs to confirm with each fair the want and need for winner blanket, to make an order soon.
6. **MEMBERSHIP REPORT:** Katy Stanke reports: Membership renewal of 130, lapse members 124 and lifetime of 60. Discussed adding the membership renewal form to the first colt stake nomination forms for 2024.
7. **TRACK DRAG FOR THE FAIRS:** Crystal Terrell reports: Discussion, not all fairs will need one or want one. Who will take care of them, and who will manage the race track. Crystal will e-mail each fair to determine the need, and how to pay for them

and report back. Caro (Scott Altizer) and Fowlerville (Claudia Davidson) request one to be made for their fair track to be paid for by their fair.

Motion: Brett Boyd moved to have Todd Hacker make one drag @ \$1,000.00 for the MHHA, supported by Crystal Terrell. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. BENEVOLENT FUND:

Motion: Crystal Terrell moved to send \$2,500.00 directly to the Chris Boring Family, supported by Jerry Earls. Motion carried by voice vote.

9. KEN TERPENNING: Crystal Terrell reports; Ken Terpenning completed seven press releases for the banquet on behalf of the MHHA.

Motion: Greg West moved to pay \$50.00 per press release for a total of \$350.00. to Ken Terpenning, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

MEMBER COMMENTS: None

BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMENTS: Claudia reports the Fowlerville Fair Board has approved ship in training for April, May, and June, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 9am to 3 pm. Will be made public soon.

ADJOURNMENT: Jerry Earls moved to adjourn at 7:55 pm, supported by Kim Pluta. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2023, at 4PM, Ngage Management Office, 2501 Jolly Rd, Suite # 110, Okemos, Michigan

Minutes prepared by Secretary Claudia Cary Davidson, March 17, 2023, Pending board approval.