



Division of Racing

Massachusetts Horse Racing Committee Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 3, 2016 - 2:00 p.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts

Present: Stephen M. Reilly, Jr., Chairman
Commissioner Gayle Cameron, Member
Frank Frisoli, Member
Peter Goldberg, Member
Catherine Blue, General Counsel
Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of Racing
Cecelia Porché, Paralegal
Ellen Cassidy, Secretary

Absent: Shawn Collins, Member

Call to Order

Chairman Stephen Reilly, Jr. called to order the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner *Gayle Cameron* moved for the approval of the *March 29, 2016, Horse Racing Committee meeting minutes*. Motion seconded by *Peter Goldberg*. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Pending Legislation

Frank Frisoli reported on the legislation proposal and noted that two members (Paul Umbrello and Bruce Patton) of the New England Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association ("NEHBPA") have been instrumental in developing a horse park. Mr. Frisoli stated that horse racing economics have changed and it is less desirable for tracks to have live racing. He provided an overview of revenue and expenses and discussions with Suffolk Downs. He stated that the NEHBPA came up with the concept of a horse park that will have an expanded race track, riding trails, and more.

Paul Umbrello provided an overview of the horse park and stated it will include the following: race track, 4-H Club, trade shows, riding trails, retirement facility, therapeutic services, and an advisory board of volunteers. He also stated that a feasibility study will be done soon. He stated that he has received full support from many individuals and organizations.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Bruce Patton stated that they came up with a horse park theme, based on a non-profit model, as a way to keep racing alive in Massachusetts. He stated that the horse park will include an adoption and retirement center, and it will be a destination facility with a year round horse and agricultural focus. He noted that they hired an attorney to draft the bill. He stated that they want to create something unique to draw people from out of state and to provide a positive financial impact on the Commonwealth. He distributed a concept diagram to the members of the Committee. He stated that they have received a lot of support from non-racing folks, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office. He also stated that there is a high probability that the bill will pass.

Frank Frisoli stated that for thoroughbred racing to continue in Massachusetts we need to expand it to become a community asset, not just racing. He also noted that the feasibility study is almost done and they received a lot of support. He stated that they have identified a site and the land may be donated. He stated that escrowed funds will be put to good use.

Commissioner Cameron thanked them for thinking outside the box and wished them well with their endeavors. She stated that circumstances can change and the split can be revisited.

Peter Goldberg stated that it is a great concept but it is premature to discuss it with the Committee. He stated that if things change we can come back and revisit it. He stated that the statute is structured to look at what's happening now, we are charged with a duty to change if the numbers have changed. If the horse park is built they can come back with their numbers.

Bruce Patton stated that he will ask for a spot on the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's agenda to announce their feasibility study.

Chairman Reilly stated that he would like to see the feasibility study when it is done. He also wanted to know how much it will cost and where it will be located.

Review of Report from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission with respect to funds overseen by the HRC and industry revenues/status

General Counsel Catherine Blue provided an overview of the Race Horse Development Fund ("RHDF"). She noted that funds are for purses (80%), payments to breeders (16%), and payments for health and welfare benefits (4%). She also noted that the Commission has the ability to escrow the money.

Chairman Reilly inquired about the formula for determining the split. General Counsel Blue stated that the split is determined by the HRC. Peter Goldberg stated that the HRC looked at five criteria and other items. Frank Frisoli stated each committee member gave their opinion on the weight of the criteria.

Dr. Alexandra Lightbown provided an overview of the money paid out in 2015 and the number of racing days for 2016.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Frank Frisoli inquired about the Plainridge Park Casino purse agreement. General Counsel Blue stated that we do not approve or review purse agreements.

Chairman Reilly inquired about racing numbers for 2014. Dr. Lightbown stated that she will provide those numbers to him. Members discussed 2014 and 2015 racing numbers. Frank Frisoli stated that the purses for 2015 were higher than normal. He stated that you need to look at the value of horses that are competing. Peter Goldberg stated that the RHDF was intended to help Massachusetts horsemen but it didn't last year. Dr. Lightbown stated that she will gather information on the MassBred but it might take some time. Frank Frisoli requested the 2014 numbers within a week because he needs it for his position paper.

Chairman Reilly inquired about future meeting dates. Frank Frisoli requested an additional seven days to submit his position paper.

Frank Frisoli moved that the HRC change the date of the submission of the position papers from May 18, 2016 to May 25, 2016. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.

HRC members discussed moving the meeting date from June 7th to June 14th. Peter Goldberg stated that he has a trial on June 14th. The members suggested a meeting on June 21st.

Frank Frisoli moved that the HRC change the meeting date from June 7, 2016 to June 21, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cameron. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Gayle Cameron. Motion seconded by Peter Goldberg. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

List of documents and other items used at the meeting:

1. Massachusetts Racing Committee, Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated May 3, 2016
2. Massachusetts Racing Committee, Draft Meeting Minutes, dated March 29, 2016
3. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Memorandum dated April 29, 2016 regarding Thoroughbred and Standardbred track information
4. Public Comments regarding Race Horse Development Fund Split
5. Horse Park Concept Diagram
6. Massachusetts Equine Corporation Bill (MAEC) Fact Sheet

/s/ Ellen Cassidy

Ellen Cassidy

Secretary



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