

MINUTES

OREGON RACING COMMISSION

July 20, 2006

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, July 20, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 140, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland, OR. Commissioners in attendance were Chair Jeff Gilmour, Julianne Davis and, via telephone, Commissioner Kerry Johnson.

Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

Public Comment: Twyla Beckner, Jockey, submitted a letter to the Commissioners describing her concerns regarding the jockey incentive program. She asked for a clarification of the program's eligibility criteria relating to the double jock mount fee, point structure and a definition of the word "ride" as it is used in the 100% eligibility requirement.

1. Approval of June 16, 2006 Minutes

ACTION: MOTION (Johnson) Approve minutes with the addition of a transcript of the license application discussions.

VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

2. Grants Pass Downs End of Meet Report

Bob Blair, Presiding Steward, was present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

a. The weather was extremely wet and caused the loss of a day and half of racing.

b. Statistics report: 15 days of racing and 141 total races this year compared to last year's 16 days and 159 races; 789 starters this year, 904 last year; 18 riders this year, 23 last year, with some of that difference is due to the lack of mule races this year.

c. Purse handle for Josephine County's seven race days this year was \$284,795 compared to 8 race days last year and \$413,207; SOHRA had 8 race days and \$307,810 this year and 8 race days and \$377,582 last year.

d. Grants Pass had about 25 betting windows, but on the 4th of July when they had the largest crowd of the season, they only had 15 mutuel tellers. The lack of tellers caused 15-16 minute delays at the starting gate in 100 degree heat.

e. Josephine County Fair furnished the track, an employment agency hired and paid all of the personnel and the HBPA handled the purses. This brings up two issues that will need to be addressed before a license is approved for next year:

- 1) Whether Grants Pass Downs should continue to fall under the umbrella of a non-profit fair.
- 2) The employment agency that hired and paid the personnel working at the fair did not have a license to operate a race track.

Commissioners went into Executive Session to deliberate the proposed orders on the agenda.

3. Proposed Order for Rolland R Ferguson

ACTION: MOTION (Davis) Adopt Proposed Order with technical corrections as the Final Order.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

4. Proposed Order for Gregory B Hickman

ACTION: MOTION (Davis) Adopt Proposed Order as amended with the fine decreased to \$250.00 as the Final Order.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

5. Proposed Order for Donald W Murphy

ACTION: MOTION (Davis) Adopt Proposed Order as Final Order to include language that demonstrates the Commission's zero tolerance on any animal abuse; a position that will be exhibited if any future such incident occurs.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

6. Sub-Committee Update Reports

No committee updates to report at this time.

7. Update on Oregon Greyhound Association Adoption Kennel

Dick Gage, President, Oregon Greyhound Association was present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

a. The exit program's estimated expenses submitted to the Commission for the first year was \$144,096.00; the actual cost was \$124,876.19, a savings of over \$19,000. However, that savings is directly related to the operational costs and the number of greyhounds adopted out. In 2005-2006, which was when the funding began, 145 greyhounds were adopted out compared to 2004-2005 when 198 greyhounds were adopted out. The operational costs are expected to continue to go down.

b. There are currently 51 greyhounds in the kennel with an additional 30 dogs, all on Oregon farms, waiting to come in.

c. Last year's cost for insurance for the dog truck used to transport the dogs back and forth to the vet and for dog meal etc., was \$1,900. To avoid an increase in that insurance to \$2,200, a new quote was obtained and that cost will decrease to \$1,098, a \$1,200 savings.

d. The Hub funding that they receive is greatly appreciated and they will continue to look for ways to save the Commission money. In response to Commissioner Davis' question about current interest in the adoption program, Mr. Gage replied that people need to be educated on the fact that there are still greyhounds in Oregon that need to be adopted, even though there is no longer any dog racing. He explained that they continue to distribute more and more flyers and arrange for functions to provide that knowledge. They had a meet and greet for the greyhounds last week in downtown Portland and will have another one at the old dog track this week as well as one in the Pearl District this Saturday and Sunday. He added that the Oregonian was also planning to do another article on the adoption program.

Chair Gilmour clarified that the Commission would like an updated report on the adoption kennel every four months.

8. Crooked River Roundup Report

Bob Blair, Presiding Steward, was present to answer questions. Information and discussions included the following:

a. Acknowledged the hard work it took for the Crooked River Roundup Association to have the track ready by opening day after a storm blew in on July 1st bringing hail and rain for three days that put the track under water. By July 5th, they had a fast track.

b. Record breaking 4 day race meet with 36 races and 199 starters, compared to 36 races and 220 starters last year; purse handle was \$215,266 this year compared to \$196,171 last year.

c. Photo Finish issue needs to be resolved.

d. One major injury; Mr. Blair commended the horsemen for their remarkable response for handling the incident and clearing the track after a rider went down at the wire.

Chair Gilmour stated that he had attended this year's Prineville meet, his fourth or fifth meet there in a row, and declared it to be one of the best shows in horse racing with live audiences in Oregon.

6. Confirmation of Next Commission Meeting – August 17, 2006

All Commissioners present stated they would be able to attend the August meeting.

8. Action on Proposed Rule OAR 462-200-0650

Executive Director Hanson explained that a hearing was held this morning regarding a new wager, a Choose (n), which will involve up to six races from a number of available tracks.

⇒ Assistant Attorney General Kelly Gabliks requested:

1. a clarification that all of the chosen races would have to occur on the same racing day; and
2. suggested that in subsection eleven (11), they use Choose (n) rather than Choose (6); i.e. Choose (n) minus 2; the (n) number could change, but the formula would always work.

Executive Director Hanson recommended approval of the new rule with the modifications as discussed.

ACTION: MOTION (Davis) Adopt OAR 462-200-0650 with requested modifications as discussed and delegated to the Executive Director.
VOTE: 3 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Excused

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.