

# MINUTES

## OREGON RACING COMMISSION OCTOBER 23, 1997

The Oregon Racing Commission met on Thursday, October 23, 1997, at 1:30 p.m. for their regular meeting in Room 140 of the Portland State Office building located at 800 N. e. Oregon Street, Portland, Oregon. Commissioners in attendance were as follows: Stephen Walters, Chair; Laura Fine, Vice Chair; Richard Reid, Tom Towslee, and Baltazar Ortiz. Agenda items were discussed in the following order with resulting actions:

### 1. Minutes of September 19, 1997 Commission Meeting

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Approve minutes as submitted.  
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

### 2. Request for Reinstatement of License by Jody Davidson

Mr. Davidson was present and accompanied by Gary Baze, Jockeys' Guild representative. Mr. Baze reported Mr. Davidson's application has been accepted by the Jockeys' Guild and that he has been a member for about two months. Steve Barham stated this request was received prior to the start date of the new reinstatement rule. The Commission has set certain conditions in the previous order that Mr. Davidson would have to meet in order to be considered for reinstatement. Given the evidence he has presented, it appears Mr. Davidson has met all of the listed conditions. Mr. Barham also stated he really did not have a recommendation on this request. Mr. Davidson presented an agreement he has with the State of Washington, and added that he is regularly attending AA meetings.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid) Reinstatement Mr. Davidson's license with stipulations mirroring those in the State of Washington agreement in addition to the conditions Oregon usually includes in requests for reinstatement of this nature.  
VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

### 3. Request for Reinstatement of License by Dexter Assoon

INS had a warrant for Mr. Assoon's deportation. He has been ruled off since February 1995 and has been revoked since April 1996 as a result of an Order being issued due to his not adhering to instructions of an ORC investigator. Canada honors our revocation. Mr. Assoon did not come to terms with INS which is the reason he is in Canada. Chair Walters stated he was reluctant to lift the revocation.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine) Set this agenda item over for one month and ask the Executive Director to determine his current status, what he has been doing over the past two years. Place on November meeting agenda.

### 4. Request by Multnomah Greyhound Park and New Portland Meadows to Discuss Wager Cancellation Rules

Carl Wilson, MGP, and Mike Dorough, NPM, stated the purpose of the rule was to avoid the manipulation of the odds. Steve Barham said he does not generally like the idea of cancellation of tickets. He recommended the Commission should probably assign a group to look at this policy.

ACTION: MOTION(Towslee) Institute rulemaking process to repeal the current rule and adopt temporary rule at the November meeting. Participants in the group should be representatives from MGP and NPM along with Steve Barham and Bob Mannix.

VOTE: 5 Aye, 0 Nay

#### **5. Simulcast Advisory Committee Report**

Steve Walters and Buzz Ortiz met with the committee and reported no one had any new ideas from what has already been presented. Chair Walters and Commissioner Ortiz will meet to prepare some objectives for the committee to review, and hopefully will be able to make a proposal at the November meeting.

#### **6. Advisory Committee on Account Wagering Report**

Laura Fine reported the committee met on October 10, 1997, at MGP at which time a representative from ODS, a company that is in the business of implementing account wagering, made a presentation. Two important issues are wanting to keep Oregon dollars in Oregon and wanting to create a larger market base. Also important are having account wagers to promote the local product, what kind of effect account wagering would have on the OTB system, monitoring wagering by minors, protection for people who have a problem with gambling, legislating a waiting period once funds are deposited. We also need to keep an eye on what's going on nationally in this area. A meeting has been set for October 30<sup>th</sup> for Brian Ferryman, NPM; Dick Cummings, MGP; Steve Barham and Paul Sundermier to work on a proposed draft, and hopefully there will be something to present in early November to the full committee. The governor's office is looking at this project as being a pilot program, and are opting for more restrictive options to prevent manipulation of the system.

#### **7. NAPRA Update**

Steve Barham reported NAPRA now has a data base established which is better than what RCI ever had. NAPRA has a web site: [www.napraonline.com](http://www.napraonline.com). He suggested commissioners take an active role in this new organization. There are a total of fourteen members as of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that there are going to be another ten to twelve after the beginning of the new calendar year. Regarding RCI, it appears they are trying to upgrade their services to members, however, there are no changes in leadership.

#### **8. E-Board Package Report**

Tom Towslee presented a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of funds being requested from the E-Board. The request is for \$1.7 million, which is basically the retention of the funds currently going to the general fund. Once the Commission approves the package it will go to the DAS, who will in turn review it and make a recommendation. It will then go to Legislative

Fiscal Office for their recommendations and then to the governor. The Commission is required to sponsor what the governor has recommended, however, that does not prevent members of the industry from requesting funds from other sources.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine)

Submit E-Board request to replace funds lost by the nonprofit summer fair meets along with amended cover letter.

VOTE:

5 Aye, 0 Nay

## **9. Multnomah Greyhound Park**

### **a. Update**

Carl Wilson reported the live Oregon handle was down 13% from 1996, out-of-state on Oregon races was up 81%, total live pools were down 1%, simulcast greyhounds up 21%, simulcast horse up 81% (a result of 12 weeks in 1996 compared to 24 weeks in 1997) with total simulcast up 57%. Total handle was up 27%, Oregon handle was up 23% while attendance was down 6%. Purses were up 25% and breeder awards were up 29%.

### **b. 1998 Race Meet Application**

The Commission went through the submitted application. Carl Wilson stated it was nearly a duplicate of the 1997 application, with 24 weeks of racing and 119 performances. They are requesting 14 races per performance which would create 1071 additional start opportunities. They have agreed on the purses and booking policy with the OGA and OGBA. There will be 18 kennels booked. Evening post time has been changed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wagering will be the same, and they would like to have two Pick 7s. Question was raised by Chair Walters as to what percentage of greyhounds racing are Oregon-breds. He would like to see a comparison covering the past five years. Other questions raised dealt with lock-up kennel and whether or not air conditioning, heat, air flow, etc. is adequate with the increased number of greyhounds being housed in it; racing officials and simulcasting signals being brought in.

ACTION: MOTION(Fine)

Approve application as submitted, deferring the issue of simulcasting, and delegating to the Executive Director approval of race officials.

VOTE:

5 Aye, 0 Nay

## **10. Lone Oak Racing, Inc. Race Dates Request for 1998**

Lonnie Craig stated they were looking for approval of race dates either from May through July or July through October 13<sup>th</sup>. They would be asking for four horse signals as well. The Commission made it clear that until Lone Oak Racing had control of a track, it would be premature for them to ask the Commission to approve race dates.

## **11. New Portland Meadows Update**

### **a. Update**

Mike Dorough thanked the Commission and staff for a smooth and orderly start. To date their total handle is down 69%, which is a comparison of 3 weeks of racing as of this date last year to 1 week of racing this year. They are selling their signal to some new states: Idaho, Iowa, Arkansas, Texas, Washington and Ohio. Attendance compared to opening last year was up 22%. Woody Mitchell reported the track is now safer after having met with Steve Barham and the Jockeys' Guild on some of the trouble spots. They

have a new harrow that is designed to take out the footprints and holes and will be used between each race. The track is continuing their efforts to do things to extend the racing life of the horse. Saddle cloth colors have been changed, and they are working with the OTB sites to get programs sent to them via the internet. Mr. Mitchell also reported there will not be any Quarter Horse races this Friday because they were unable to fill the races.

**b. Comments by Lynn Sullivan-Hobson Regarding the Bend OTB Site**

Ms. Sullivan-Hobson made a presentation to the Commission in which she stated she strongly felt the Mt. Bachelor Sports Bar in Bend has been wronged by track management. Following her comments, Chair Walters stated he would have a conversation with the Executive Director to see whether or not the Commission should pursue the matter any further.

**12. Commission Resolution Regarding New Portland Meadows 1998-99 Race Meet**

**Approval**

Tom Towslee again stated his concerns regarding granting approval to New Portland Meadows for their 1998-99 race meet if the ownership situation has not been resolved by the time their application is submitted. He feels the Commission needs to send some kind of message to the courts that this situation has gone on for too long, and still believes a strong stand by the Commission is warranted. Chair Walters stated he shared Mr. Towslee's frustration over the situation. On a positive note he cited some potentially exciting things on the horizon in the form of "The Hub" and account wagering. Richard Reid stated he did not like the "line in the sand" approach, to which Laura Fine concurred.

ACTION: MOTION(Reid)

Postpone until next month taking any action on a resolution.

VOTE:

3 Aye (Fine, Reid, Walters); 2 Nay (Ortiz, Towslee)

**13. Commission Action on Contested Case – Damon A. Weinmann**

ACTION: MOTION(Reid)

Revoke Mr. Weinmann's license and leave the fine at \$100.

VOTE:

5 Aye, 0 Nay

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.