



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
May 17, 2018

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, May 17, 2018, in Room 1E of the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Call to Order

Chair Charles Williamson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Charles Williamson; Vice Chair Jan Palmer, DVM; Commissioner Diego Conde; Commissioner Christopher Dudley; Commissioner Angelo Turner.

Staff

Executive Director Jack McGrail; Catriona McCracken, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Agenda Items

Approvals:

Action: Approval of the meeting agenda.

Moved by: Commissioner Christopher Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Angelo Turner

Vote: Commissioners Williamson, Palmer, Conde, Dudley and Turner voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

Action: Approval of the April 19, 2018, meeting minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Christopher Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Angelo Turner

Vote: Commissioners Williamson, Palmer, Conde, Dudley and Turner voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

Old Business:

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director McGrail reported that the fair meets are coming up, starting June 8 with the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show in Union. He stated that Presiding State Steward Mike Twiggs had done a preliminary inspection and reports things are coming along well. The test barn has been rebuilt after last year's fire; the starting gate tested without problem; the rail needs some slight repair and fencing will be put in. Trackman Steve Wood will meet with the track crew June 7 and 8, Director McGrail stated, adding that Racing Director Nate Jacob and his crew have done a terrific job in the aftermath of the fire.

Grants Pass is open for training, Director McGrail reported. An ambitious infield project will improve the facility for the community, as well as contributing to the track's image. The project involves utility installation and trenching, and after consultation with Mr. Twiggs and Mr. Wood, trenching along the buffer zone inside the rail has been delayed until after the race meet, he stated. The track surface is graded. The starting gate has been manually tested. The test barn is in order with the hot walker installed.

Director McGrail added that Randy Evers of the Oregon Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (OHBPA) and Randy Boden of AmWest Entertainment have put a lot of effort into simulcast at Grants Pass. The hope is that improved distribution and picture quality, as well as more outlets, will generate more revenue than last year.

He added that Dean Noyes of the Crooked River Roundup has done a good job of coordinating jockey insurance for all the fairs. The premium has gone down -- the expected allocation of \$102,000 is actually \$98,000 -- good news that speaks to the safety record of the fairs, Director McGrail noted.

Director McGrail reported that on Monday the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in *Murphy v. NCAA* that nullifies the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, leaving sports betting within the states' province. The effect of this decision on the racing community is unknown, but Director McGrail stated that he thinks it offers opportunities. The ADWs are in a good position to use their platforms for those opportunities. The decision was not unexpected, Director McGrail added, noting that 18 states have passed or have legislation pending.

Director McGrail noted that Game Play Network is on today's agenda for possible approval of its license renewal. He thanked Joe Hasson, Senior Vice President of Racing and Regulatory Affairs in the Los Angeles office, and Cameron Benjamin, Director of Beaverton Operations, for being present, noting they have some innovative ideas that will help the industry as well as their company.

Future of Racing in Oregon Group (FROG) Report

Vice Chair Palmer reported that FROG met this morning and talked about simulcasting, changes to the Jockey Incentive Program, and what the sports betting ruling may mean to the industry.

New Business:

Discussion and possible approval of license renewal for Game Play Network, dba b Spot

ADW Supervisor Connie Winn, accompanied by Mr. Hasson and Mr. Benjamin, discussed Game Play Network's renewal application. Ms. Winn noted that the error-free application was the best one she'd seen in her three years on the Commission.

Mr. Hasson briefly described the pari-mutuel wagering products Game Play Network offers.

Ms. Winn went through her checklist, noting that she had done an extensive on-site audit last September, reviewing financials, operations, information technology, security (both physical and IT). The company passed with flying colors, she stated, as well as passing quarterly and annual reviews. The company is in good standing with the ORC on all counts, she stated. She recommended approval of its license renewal for 5 years.

Action: Approve license renewal for Game Play Network, dba b Spot

Moved by: Commissioner Angelo Turner

Seconded: Commissioner Christopher Dudley

Vote: Chair Williamson called the roll. Commissioners Williamson, Palmer, Conde, Dudley and Turner voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

Commission Housekeeping

Chair Williamson noted that the Commission is trying to get each Commissioner to attend a fair meet. The tentative plan calls for Vice Chair Palmer to go to Tillamook, Chair Williamson to go to Grants Pass, Commissioner Turner to Burns and Prineville, and Commissioner Conde to Union. He suggested that incoming Commissioner Peggy Anderson go to Prineville as well. Chair Williamson stated he thought it was helpful to have a Commissioner attend each meet.

Chair Williamson noted that at its next meeting, the Commission is scheduled to elect a new chair and make new committee assignments.

Public Comment:

Mr. Evers, Executive Director of the OHBPA, explained that the horsemen sent a proposal to Portland Meadows (PM), received a counter proposal, and had submitted a counter proposal to the PM proposal.

Karsten Hennze, PM General Manager, added (via phone) that the meet application is in process.

Noting that this is Commissioner Dudley's last meeting, Mr. Evers thanked him on behalf of the OHBPA for his service to racing. He added that personally, as a former director of the ORC, he wanted to thank Commissioner Dudley for his leadership and direction.

Chair Williamson echoed those thanks, presenting Commissioner Dudley with a plaque commemorating his 11 years of service. He described Commissioner Dudley as fun to work with, smart, knowledgeable, able to get people to work together, and summed up that Commissioner Dudley has been a great and effective leader.

Commissioner Dudley stated he was proud of how the Commission has changed over the 11 years he has served, becoming much friendlier to stakeholders. The Commission has tried to foresee issues affecting the racing industry and respond adequately, he stated, adding that its members work well together. Commissioner Dudley added that he was privileged to come on board under a knowledgeable Executive Director in Randy Evers, and when Mr. Evers retired, the Commission was equally fortunate in finding as his replacement someone as knowledgeable as Director McGrail.

Commissioner Dudley noted he was sorry to be leaving at a time when the industry is turning a corner regarding sports betting. He urged that supporters of horse racing get at the table early to be part of the conversation in Oregon, because other parties will not have horse racing's interests at heart.

Other Business as May Properly Come Before the Commission:

None

Contested Cases:

None

Confirmation of the Next Commission Meeting:

The next regular Oregon Racing Commission meeting will be Thursday, June 21, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1E of the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR.

Adjournment:

Action: Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Commissioner Christopher Dudley

Seconded: Commissioner Diego Conde

Vote: Commissioners Williamson, Palmer, Conde, Dudley and Turner voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (5:0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.