



Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
March 27, 2019

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met on Thursday, March 27, 2019, in Room 310 of the Portland State Office Building (PSOB), 800 N.E. Oregon St., Portland, OR. The meeting was held via conference call.

Call to Order

Chair Jan Palmer, DVM, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Jan Palmer, DVM; Vice Chair Diego Conde; Commissioner Charles Williamson; Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Staff

Executive Director Jack McGrail

Absent

Commissioner Angelo Turner

Agenda Items

Approvals:

Action: Approval of the meeting agenda

Moved by: Vice Chair Diego Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Peggy Anderson

Vote: Commissioners Palmer, Conde, Williamson and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Public Session:

Discussion and Possible Approval of Commercial Race Meet and/or Simulcast License Application

Chair Palmer reported that last week the Commission met in Executive Session with representatives of four groups: Stronach Group, TMB Racing (Grants Pass), US Off-Track and Churchill Downs. The Commission listened to presentations on their license applications from the first three; Chair Palmer characterized Churchill Downs' offering as an introduction.

Vice Chair Conde thanked all presenters, whom he described as well prepared and eager to help the racing industry in Oregon. All met the Commission's minimum qualifications, he noted. As the Commission makes its decision, he noted the importance of covering not only the short term for Oregon racing, but also looking to the medium and long term for the good of the industry. He also thanked other stakeholders who considered presenting an application and ultimately decided against doing so.

Action: Approve TMB Racing LLC application's for a commercial race meet license and a simulcast license

Motion: Vice Chair Diego Conde

Discussion: Scott Daruty of Stronach Group stated that his organization realized the necessity for the Commission to move forward. However, he wanted to make the Commission aware that Stronach Group had received notice in the past 48 hours that the prospective buyer for Portland Meadows (PM) has received an extension to complete its due diligence. The sale was supposed to move to closing March 31, Mr. Daruty stated, but the buyer has requested an additional 90 days. Mr. Daruty added that he does not know if that means the buyer does or does not intend to proceed with purchasing the property.

If the Grants Pass license is granted, and if the PM sale falls through, Mr. Daruty asked if there is any prohibition against the Commission granting two commercial race-meet licenses. He asked if PM could seek a license, working with Grants Pass to avoid overlapping dates. He stated that if the sale falls through, he believes it is in the interest of the industry for PM to continue to have a commercial meet license. He stated that the PM operating lease is contingent on having an annual race meet license.

Executive Director McGrail replied that there is no restriction in statute on the number of commercial race meet licenses granted, although there are other restrictions. He added that the application is due 30 days in advance of the June 30 expiration of the current license, which would be the end of May. He noted the Commission has waived that requirement in the past.

Rod Lowe of TMB Racing stated that Stronach Group and TMB both know there is not enough funding through simulcasting to support two commercial race meet licenses. There wouldn't be enough money for purses or operations, he added, unless the industry grows substantially in the next couple of years.

Director McGrail noted that the Commission would factor that in if it received an application, but it was premature to make those calls.

Chair Palmer agreed that the Commission should judge what's on the table. If the PM sale falls through, she stated, she would not preclude Stronach Group negotiating with the horsemen and approaching the Commission. She reiterated the end of May deadline before the license expires.

Action: Approve TMB Racing LLC application for a commercial race meet license and a simulcast license.

Motion: Vice Chair Diego Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Vote: Chair Palmer took roll and Commissioners Palmer, Conde, Williamson and Anderson voted AYE and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

Adjournment:

Action: Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: Commissioner Charles Williamson

Seconded: Vice Chair Diego Conde

Vote: Commissioners Palmer, Conde, Williamson and Anderson voted AYE, and the motion carried unanimously (4:0).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.