

## CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS

Special Live Racing Committee Meeting

Monday, November 3, 2008

### Minutes

A meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, November 3, 2008. The meeting was conducted by conference call from the California Authority of Racing Fairs Conference Room located at 1776 Tribute Road, Suite 205, Sacramento, California, 95815.

Live Racing Committee Members attending: Joe Barkett. Joining by conference call: John Alkire, Norb Bartosik, Chris Carpenter, Debbie Cook, Rick Pickering, Tawny Tesconi and Stuart Titus.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Heather Haviland, Margot Wilson, and Richard Lewis. Joining by conference call: Dave Elliott and Bruce Lim.

**Agenda Item 1 – Discussion and Action, if any, on a Combined Fair Meeting in 2009 and Beyond.** Mr. Barkett requested that Mr. Korby walk the Committee through the three 2009 dates calendars included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Korby started with the calendar titled “2009 NorCal Dates – CARF Plan for Summer Dates Adopted Sept.23 and Again Unanimously Oct. 13” which was introduced in text form and adopted at the Sept. 23, 2008 CARF Live Racing Committee meeting. Ms. Cook expressed concern that on the Oct. 13, 2008 CARF Live Racing Committee vote, it was Stockton’s intent to move back to its traditional June dates.

The second calendar, titled “2009 DRAFT 10-14-2008,” was proposed to the CHRB Board by the TOC and reduces the Pleasanton/Golden Gate Fields bock by 30 days, provides for two weeks of racing at Stockton in June, three weeks at Pleasanton, three weeks at Santa Rosa, three to four weeks at Golden Gate Fields overlapping with Ferndale, three to four weeks at Sacramento (removed from the California State Fair), two weeks at Fresno and the balance of dates at Golden Gate Fields. This calendar significantly reduces the number of race days in Northern California, creates a longer Christmas break and substantially reduces Wednesday racing. This proposal was not reviewed or supported by CARF prior to its presentation.

The third calendar, titled “DRAFT - Modified CARF Plan – NorCal 2009 – Stockton in June – CalX during State Fair – GGF Sept. – Dated Oct. 30, 2008,” was created by CARF Staff and represent a hybrid of the above two calendars, thereby creating a sensible and defensible 2009 racing calendar. The calendar offers two weeks of racing at Stockton in June, three weeks at Pleasanton, one week at Vallejo, two weeks at Santa Rosa, two weeks at Golden Gate Fields/Ferndale, two weeks at Sacramento during the California State Fair, another four weeks at Golden Gate Fields and two weeks at Fresno ending Oct. 18, 2009. In this calendar, Mondays during Del Mar would become simulcast only days, overall Northern California race days would be reduced, a block of spring and fall dates would be held for Pleasanton and a longer Christmas break would be created.

Mr. Korby noted that the third calendar inadvertently cut the fall Pleasanton/Golden Gate Fields meet off at Nov. 1, 2009 and should show the meet running through Nov. 8, 2009.

Mr. Alkire moved to approve the calendar titled “DRAFT - Modified CARF Plan – NorCal 2009 – Stockton in June – CalX during State Fair – GGF Sept. – Dated Oct. 30, 2008” as presented. Mr. Bartosik seconded for discussion.

Mr. Elliott expressed concern that running Golden Gate Fields dates in the middle of the summer block would negatively affect Santa Rosa and Sacramento. A reasonable solution from the viewpoint of Sacramento would be to use Stabling and Vanning Fund monies to pay for shipping/shuttling costs during mid-summer and to compensate Sacramento for its traditional \$40,000 trainers’ contest. Sacramento would also like to propose running an extra three to four days after Labor Day to lengthen the period between the dates run at Golden Gate Fields.

Mr. Alkire amended the motion to approve the calendar as presented with the caveat that Sacramento be allowed to run an additional three to four days after Labor Day assuming the concept did not receive opposition from racing industry principals. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Korby asked the CARF Board to support the position that if the 35 days held for Pleasanton outside the Summer block were to be reduced, the industry would provide Pleasanton with a comparable revenue source to fund facility improvements. Mr. Barkett moved to support the position for potential negotiation as stated. Mr. Bartosik seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 2 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2009 and Beyond.** Mr. Korby made the group aware that moving forward in a lease agreement with Golden Gate Fields would require the mechanism for a combined Fair meet to be developed. Dates run at a leased facility will need to be licensed under a Fair umbrella. Mr. Korby asked which Fairs would be interested in running as a combined Fair meet in 2009.

Ms. Cook expressed concern regarding how details such as payroll would be affected in a consolidated meet. Mr. Korby responded that individual aspects of the consolidation, such as payroll, will be at the discretion of each Fair contractually based on the 2007 Vallejo/Santa Rosa model.

Ms. Cook and Mr. Titus asked what the benefits would be for consolidation beyond securing and protecting the Fair block of dates and what the structure would look like. Mr. Korby responded that the structure would look much like it had in the past, just defined differently.

Mr. Pickering asked for a roll call of Fairs interested in proceeding with the combined Fair meet concept in 2009. Pleasanton, Vallejo, San Mateo and Fresno stated they would join in two combined Fair meetings.

Mr. Barkett directed staff to move forward with supplying more detail regarding the philosophy and structure a combined meet.

**Agenda Item 3 – Executive Directors Report.** Mr. Korby reported that the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) has expressed concern to CARF regarding individual interests meeting to discuss racing dates outside the entire group, despite the fact that those meetings were requested by principals. Mr. Bartosik informed the group that the TOC had requested a meeting with CalExpo that was intended to be a multi-dimensional conversation and not a discussion based solely on the feasibility of running four weeks in September at CalExpo. Mr. Bartosik agreed to proceed with the meeting with the intent of sharing the discussion with the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Haviland