

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS  
Live Racing Committee  
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

MINUTES

A meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The meeting was hosted at the CARF offices, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California.

CARF Live Racing Committee members attending: John Alkire, Richard Conway, Jerome Hoban, Brian May and Rick Pickering.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Jeanne Wasserman and Sarah Watkins.

**Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: June 2, 2015.** The next CARF Live Racing Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, June 2, 2015 in Sacramento.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment.** None.

**Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes.** Mr. Pickering moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hoban seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on CARF 2015 Legislative Program.** Mr. Korby stated that Louie Brown will provide a legislative update during the CARF Board of Directors meeting at 12:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Status of Horsemen Agreements for 2015.** Mr. Korby reported that all horsemen agreements are signed and in place for the upcoming CHRB license application hearings.

**Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2015 and Beyond.** Mr. Korby reported that the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) Northern California Race Dates Ad Hoc Committee met on April 15, 2015. At that meeting, representatives from Golden Gate Fields (GGF) announced they would seek significant changes to the 2016 racing calendar, including increasing the number of race days allocated to GGF in order to make the facility profitable. GGF representatives indicated that if they are not successful in obtaining the proposed changes, they will consider closing the track. Mr. Korby

recommended that the CARF Live Racing Committee develop a calendar similar to the 2015 schedule as well as a formal 2016 calendar that accommodates the closure of GGF.

Mr. Korby circulated a 2016 calendar titled, *"DRAFT-1A Proposed Northern California Racing Dates Calendar Prepared April 29, 2015"* reflecting the dates each Fair Manager requested during the April Live Racing Committee meeting. Mr. Korby anticipates that topics GGF representatives will bring up during negotiations will include Stockton racing with or without a traditional fair, Ferndale overlap and the third week of racing at Cal Expo.

Mr. Korby asked the group to verbally state their requested 2016 dates to verify the presented calendar. Representatives reported as follows:

- Alameda County Fair – June 22 – July 10, 2016
- California State Fair – July 13-31, 2016
- Humboldt County Fair – Aug. 17-28 or Aug. 25 – Sept. 5, 2016 (after Santa Rosa)
- San Joaquin Fair – Sept. 21 – Oct. 2, 2016
- Big Fresno Fair – Oct. 5-16, 2016

Mr. Korby requested that the Live Racing Committee designate Mr. Alkire and Mr. Hoban to a negotiating committee to give CARF the ability to respond to the industry principals quickly and efficiently as the 2016 calendar develops. Mr. Alkire asked if any other fair representative wished to serve in his place. Mr. Alkire stated that hearing no other wishes to serve or opposition, he and Mr. Hoban will be pleased to serve.

Mr. Korby requested the group adopt the proposed calendar for submission to the CHRB as a starting point for 2016 negotiations. Mr. Conway asked that the letter to the CHRB clarify that the Ferndale meet will begin immediately following Santa Rosa. Mr. Hoban requested that Thursday, June 23, 2016 be shown as opening day for the Pleasanton meet.

The group discussed developing a year-round 2016 fair calendar in the event that Golden Gate Fields ceases to conduct racing. Specific new spring and fall meets were discussed, including strategic breaks in the racing calendar to benefit Southern California, better fit the horse population and increase purses. The group is unanimously confident that a strong year-round fair calendar can be implemented in the immediate future. Mr. Alkire directed staff to continue developing a year-round fair racing calendar as an alternate plan for the CHRB and requested each Fair Manager talk to their respective Boards regarding pursuing additional race dates.

Mr. Pickering moved to adopt the calendar titled, *"DRAFT-1A Proposed Northern California Racing Dates Calendar Prepared April 29, 2015"* for submission to the CHRB as an opening CARF position in 2016 racing dates negotiations. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Summer Racing Operations.** Ms. Haviland reported that the Daily Racing Form will be printing the daily summer programs. The new dimensions will be 4.5” wide by 10.25” tall, making the overall program larger and easier to read. Staff negotiated a price that is comparable to the 2014 printing costs.

Mr. Korby reported that each of the Fair Managers has received a packet of printed recruitment collateral that staff will be distributing to horsemen during upcoming out of state visits.

**Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on CHRB Racing License Applications.** Mr. Swartzlander reported that the Oak Tree at Pleasanton CHRB application hearing went very well and was readily approved. The Cal Expo license is ontrack for final submission into the CHRB meeting packet and the Ferndale license is being prepared by staff.

**Agenda Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report.** Mr. Korby reported that Tom Ludt, senior vice president at Santa Anita, has been appointed to implement an unidentified national project for the Stronach Group. As a result of his new appointment, Mr. Ludt will no longer oversee the day-to-day operations at Santa Anita. Keith Brackpool, chairman of The Stronach Group's West Coast operations, will assume control of Santa Anita's day-to-day management.

Mr. Korby reported that Churchill Downs experienced record crowds and handle for the 2015 Kentucky Derby won by American Pharoah. California simulcast handle and attendance was also up, boding well for the industry as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Haviland