

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Live Racing Committee
Tuesday, June 2, 2015

MINUTES

A meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, June 2, 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, John Quiroz and Richard Lewis.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: September TBD. The next CARF Live Racing Committee meeting is tentatively schedule for September 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 reported that Assemblyman Adam Gray's Internet poker bill (AB 431), an untitled shell bill, is purposely devoid of language to keep the bill moving through the legislative process. AB 431 has passed through both the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Mr. Korby reported that the racing industry, card rooms and the tribal community are continuing extensive informal negotiations.

Agenda Item 5 – Update on Statewide Totalisator Services. Mr. Korby reported that preparations for converting California tracks and satellites to the new Totalisator provider, American Totalisator (Amtote), are underway. SCOTWINC and NOTWINC personnel, along with industry principals, are working closing with tracks and fairs to ensure a smooth transition. The exact date of commencement of services is still being worked out due to discrepancies in the Southern California racing calendar. CARF staff will communicate any updates or facility requirements as they are received.

Mr. Hoban asked if there has been a resolution as to which parties will bear the costs of any necessary retrofitting and/or rewiring. Mr. Korby stated that the tote company will be responsible for data wiring and satellites/tracks will be responsible for cabinet modifications.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2015 and Beyond. Mr. Korby stated that the meeting packets include a letter and calendar submitted to the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB), as requested of all racing principals by CHRB Board staff, proposing 2016 Northern California racing dates at CARF member Fairs. The CARF submitted letter/calendar were previously approved by the CARF Live Racing Committee in May.

Mr. Korby stated that a subsequent meeting of industry representatives was held at Santa Anita. Mr. Alkire and Mr. Hoban attended, as the CARF negotiating committee, to represent CARF member Fairs. Other attendees included Rick Baedecker (CHRB), Keith Brackpool (Stronach Group), Scott Daruty (Stronach Group), Eric Sindler (Stronach Group) and representatives from Santa Rosa. Stronach Group representatives, on behalf of Golden Gate Fields, stated that they do not have a plan prepared and do not know if they will have one prior to the next scheduled dates committee hearing on June 17. Stronach Group representatives had very little information to provide, but stated that they would seek “quality summer dates” in future calendars. Mr. Korby stated that CARF representatives initiated discussion regarding a calendar in which Golden Gate Fields is no longer operating in Northern California.

Mr. Korby stated that he believes it is imperative for the CARF Live Racing Committee to develop a calendar in the event that Northern California racing devolves to Fairs due to the closure of Golden Gate Fields. Mr. Korby stated that besides accommodating racing dates, Fairs would also have to consider training facilities. The meeting packets include a document titled “Site Profiles – Northern California Racing Venues” that outlines figures for grandstand seating, barns, stall, racing surface and parking at all Northern California tracks. Mr. Hoban stated that any planning of this nature should include Oak Tree as a major player and involve bringing Santa Rosa back into CARF membership.

Mr. Pickering moved to authorize Mr. Korby to pursue a year-round racing calendar for Northern California that does not include Golden Gate Fields in anticipation of their potential closure. Mr. Hoban seconded, unanimously approved. Mr. Korby stated that if CHRB commissioners request Fair commitments on CHRB generated calendars, a conference call will be conducted.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Summer Racing Operations. Mr. Doutrich reported that recruitment efforts are proceeding in a positive pattern. Mr. Doutrich and Mr. Conway made a recent recruitment trip to Idaho and received a verbal commitment from trainer Jason Homer for 15 new horses to enter the system. They

were also able to connect with several prominent horsemen including Jerry Dutton and connections for Triple AAA Ranch.

Mr. Doutrich reported that Golden Gate Fields is up slightly in starters per race and should be able to bring their purse fund deficit back to even. Mr. Doutrich stated that he has taken two productive recruiting trips to Southern California, generating awareness of Northern California racing opportunities as the stabling situation in the Los Angeles area becomes more difficult. Mr. Doutrich stated that the overall horse population in Northern California is down, but the number of active trainers is increasing, which is a very positive sign.

Mr. Korby reported that the meeting packets include the artwork for the 2015 VIP Horsemen's program. Mr. Alkire stated that this will be a great year for Fairs to really step up customer service to horsemen and cater to racing's VIPs.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on CHRB Racing License Applications. Mr. Swartzlander reported that the Cal Expo CHRB application hearing went well and was approved. The Ferndale license is ontrack for final submission and the Stockton license is being prepared by staff. San Joaquin County Fair staff have committed to stepping up marketing efforts for the meet and are in contract with a circus for both weekends as well as providing a beer and wine fest in the Grandstand mezzanine. Mr. Korby emphasized the importance of Stockton conducting credible "fair-like" events to support horse racing to help secure future race dates.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Director's Report. Mr. Korby reported that the Hollywood Park grandstand was demolished on May 31.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland