

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 2, 2015

MINUTES

A teleconference meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Board of Directors was held at 12:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 2, 2015. The teleconference meeting was hosted at the CARF offices, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, California.

CARF Board Directors attending: John Alkire, Jerome Hoban, Dan Jacobs and Rick Pickering. Joining by teleconference: Chris Borovansky, Chris Carpenter and Kelly Violini.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Brian May, Richard Conway, John Quiroz and Richard Lewis.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: September TBD, 2015. The next CARF Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled for September location to be determined.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Borovansky moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Pickering 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.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Dates for 2016 and Beyond. Mr. Korby reported that the CARF Live Racing Committee had a lengthy discussion in the prior meeting regarding racing dates in 2016 and beyond due to the uncertainty of management decision and intentions at Golden Gate Fields. Stronach Group representatives had divulged very little information regarding the 2016 racing calendar, but stated that they will seek “quality summer dates” and may close the facility if they cannot secure the dates they request.

The CARF Live Racing Committee voted unanimously to authorize CARF staff to pursue a year-round racing calendar for Northern California that does not include Golden Gate Fields in anticipation of their potential closure. Mr. Korby stated that developing a Fair-only year round racing calendar will not influence ongoing 2016 negotiations, but does ensure that Fairs are exploring and preparing for every opportunity that might become available.

Mr. Pickering moved support the Live Racing Committee motion 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.

Agenda Item 7 – Financials. Mr. Alkire reported that financials are provided in the meeting packet and that Ms. Gibbons is available to answer any questions. Mr. Korby reported that all legal staff has been directed to flag all invoices specific to live racing so that those expenses can be billed appropriately, thereby addressing a concern raised by Mr. Borovansky in May. No further questions at this time.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Korby reported that the agenda for the upcoming CHRB Pari-Mutuel Operations Committee meeting at Los Alamitos in June includes satellite wagering facility inspections to be conducted by CHRB staff. CHRB staff requested a satellite inspection survey template that was previously developed and utilized by CARF staff. Though CARF staff was open to providing the template, possible political motivations for inspecting Fair satellites are concerning. The same meeting agenda also includes discussions regarding merging SCOTWINS and NCOTWINC, which is something CARF staff does not support.

Mr. Korby reported that the Hollywood Park grandstand was demolished on May 31.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Session (Personnel). No reportable action was taken during the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland