

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2019**

MINUTES

A concurrent meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, May 7, 2019. The meeting was conducted at the CARF Conference Room, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA, 95815.

CARF Board Directors attending: Richard Conway and Rick Pickering. Joining by conference call: John Alkire, Jerome Hoban, Geoff Hinds and Kelly Violini.

CARF Live Racing Committee attending: Richard Conway and Rick Pickering. Joining by conference call: John Alkire and Jerome Hoban.

Staff and Guests attending: Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Ann Grottviet, Louie Brown, Cody Boyles, Tom Martinez and John Quiroz. Joining by conference call: Jeanne Wasserman, Lisa Hindley, Duane Martin and Caroline Titus.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: TBD at the Big Fresno Fair. The next CARF Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee meeting will be held in October at the Big Fresno Fair.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Ms. Grottviet reported from closed session that Board discussion was held and no action was taken.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes. {ACTION} Mr. Pickering moved to approve the April 2, 2019 CARF Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee concurrent meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2019 Legislation Program. Mr. Brown reported that the deadline for policy committees to hear and report on fiscal bills introduced in their house of origin was April 26 and last Friday was the deadline for policy committees to hear and report on non-fiscal bills.

Mr. Brown stated that concerns over race track safety and the breakdowns at Santa Anita Park remain extremely high, resulting in at least one senate bill and chatter regarding initiative efforts by animal rights groups to ban racing. A joint informational meeting of the Assembly and Senate G.O. Committees is expected this month to review racetrack safety and maintenance issues, specifically those at Santa Anita. Representatives of Pacific Racing Association (PRA) and the Stronach Group (TSG) have been active at the Capitol by meeting with the Chairs of both committees resulting in restrictions to race-day medications through track house rules.

Mr. Brown stated that due to the focus on horse racing safety, CARF sponsored bill AB 482, initially introduced by Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula and then carried by Assemblymember Bill Quirk, was not heard in the Assembly G.O. Committee. Assemblymember Quick obliged the request of the Chair to not move the bill this session, thereby changing its status to a two-year bill.

SB 469 (Dodd) would allow CHRB members authorization to suspend racing licenses to protect the health/safety of horses and riders by a majority vote of all members or a unanimous vote of members if fewer than four are present with no minimum requirement. The bill would also allow the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) the ability to require additional safety standards or requirements as a condition of lifting such a suspension or the ability to reallocate those dates. Mr. Brown stated that industry principals have expressed concern regarding the broadness of the bill, the structure of the voting process and the reallocation of race dates. CARF legislative staff recommends providing suggested language amendments to the author before adopting an official position. Mr. Brown stated that at this time the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) are the only racing group to officially support the bill.

{ACTION} Mr. Pickering moved to support SB 469 if amended to address legislative staff concerns regarding the overall scope of the bill, number of voting members and clarification regarding race date reallocation criteria. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

Mr. Brown reported that at this time there is no legislative action at the Capitol regarding sports wagering.

Mr. Brown reported that AB 759 (Bigelow), a spot bill on mini-satellite wagering facilities, is currently sitting on the Assembly floor as a vehicle that could be used in the second house. Assemblymember Gray also has a spot bill, AB 1635, that could potentially be used by fairs if needed.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2019 Racing Operations.

Stabling: Mr. Doutrich reported that 44 Thoroughbreds and 18 emerging breed equines are on the grounds at Pleasanton, which is approximately 25 more horses than we had at this time last year. The Pleasanton condition book is at the printer and will be available next week.

CHRB Meeting & Racing Licenses: Mr. Swartzlander reported that the Pleasanton racing application was approved by the CHRB on April 18. The Sacramento application will be heard in May. CHRB staff is recommending that the CARF-member fairs change their medication house rules to reflect the changes made by Santa Anita – specifically reducing the maximum dose of Lasix to 5ccs. TOC is in support of the reduction and the trainer’s organization is not. Mr. Doutrich reviewed past runners and determined that this change will only affect a very small percentage of the horse population running at fairs.

Race Dates: Mr. Swartzlander requested that Fair Managers share the race dates they would prefer to request for the 2020 racing season.

Alameda County Fair (Pleasanton): Mr. Hoban suggested the CARF circuit make the traditional Leap year shift in 2020, resulting in Pleasanton running June 19 – July 12. This shift would also apply to 2021 with a June 18 start date. Ms. Stoehr stated that those dates work in regards to overlap with San Mateo County Fair in 2020 and though she is concerned about 2021, she believes her fair will manage.

California State Fair (Sacramento): Mr. Pickering stated that the California State Fair is open to remaining in the same date slot as 2019 or shifting one week later depending on the desire of other fairs and carnival schedules.

Humboldt County Fair (Ferndale): Mr. Conway stated that due to school schedules and previous revenue experience in shifting fair dates, the Humboldt County Fair would prefer August 14-23, 2020.

Big Fresno Fair (Fresno): Mr. Alkire stated that the Big Fresno Fair is open to running traditional dates (Oct. 1-12) or shifting one week (Oct. 8-18).

Mr. Swartzlander stated that Sonoma County Fair has traditionally expressed concern in shifting later in the calendar due to the Sonoma County school schedule.

Agenda Item 7 – Financials. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he is recommending the CARF-member Fairs assist Humboldt County Fair with the monetary hardships presented by lack of host status granted by the CHRB in 2019, specifically the ability to borrow cash against 2019 commissions to help fund meet startup if costs.

{ACTION} Mr. Hoban moved to allow the Humboldt County Fair to negotiate and execute a promissory note to CARF under the direction of Mr. Swartzlander. Ms. Stoehr seconded. YES VOTE: Mr. Alkire, Mr. Hoban, Mr. Pickering, Ms. Stoehr and Ms. Violini. RECUSED: Mr. Conway.

Mr. Pickering clarified that this action is a means to facilitate commissions money to Humboldt County Fair in a timely manner to ensure the production of a high-quality racing program in 2019.

Mr. Alkire reported that financials are included in the meeting packet. No questions at this time.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Swartzlander reported that the National Orange Show satellite in San Bernardino is being upgraded to high definition. The San Mateo and Pleasanton satellite upgrades have been completed and the live racing Jumbotron has also been upgraded.

Mr. Swartzlander stated that he and his wife Sue will be leaving tomorrow on a two week Mississippi River cruise to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland