

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS  
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee  
Concurrent Meeting  
Tuesday, August 6, 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, August 6, 2019 via teleconference. The meeting originated at the CARF office, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA, 95815.

CARF Board Directors joining by conference call: John Alkire, Richard Conway, Jerome Hoban, Rick Pickering, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

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

Staff and Guests participating: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Cody Boyles, John Quiroz, Lauri King, Jeanne Wasserman, Lucky Kalanges 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 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on the 2019 Legislative Program.** Mr. Boyles reported on AB 635 (Bigelow), which contains cleanup language to 2017-18 AB 1499 (Gray), allowing fairs to qualify for funding without rolling back their meet and confer agreements. Assemblymember Gray is co-author to the bill.

**Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2019 Racing Operations.** Mr. Swartzlander reported on the Alameda County Fair and California State Fair race meets.

Mr. Swartzlander reported that he monitored TVG coverage of the fairs closely during the California State Fair meet. The fairs received no coverage on TVG's premium channel and were not only relegated exclusively to TVG2 (formerly HRTV) but also limited to replay and stretch-run coverage. Mr. Swartzlander expressed concern to TVG and was told that the tracks provided coverage on TVG's premium channel are paid partners at top-tier tracks broadcasting in high-definition. Mr. Swartzlander declined further payment for coverage on TVG2, but would like to

encourage Fair Managers to seriously consider upgrading to high-definition broadcast to increase the quality of the fair racing product to television consumers and ADW players.

Mr. Swartzlander provided a brief update on sports wagering which is still being pursued by industry principals but will not be part of the 2018-19 legislative session.

**Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2020 Race Dates.** Mr. Swartzlander stated that a calendar titled “Proposed Northern California Racing Dates DRAFT – updated 6-28-19” is included in the meeting packet for discussion. The formation of the calendar was based on discussion during the May 7, 2019 CARF Board meeting in which a majority of fairs seemed to support shifting back in the calendar one week.

Mr. Hoban stated that the 2020 Leap year extra day affects years 2020-2023 necessitating a traditional shift to maintain holidays in their appropriate spots. If the racing calendar does not make the traditional shift, in 2023 July 4 will fall on Tuesday with California State Fair opening on Friday, causing safety issues for the carnival servicing both fairs.

Mr. Pickering stated that a member of the CHRB Board expressed in committee that they would not be willing to push Sonoma County Fair and Humboldt County Fair deeper in the school year. Mr. Pickering added that as the fair servicing the state Capitol, it is advantageous for California State Fair to be operating when monthly state payroll occurs on the last day of the month. Mr. Pickering stated that ultimately the fair can shift or not with the ultimate goal being to retain three weeks of racing.

Mr. Conway stated that the Humboldt County Fair has experienced negative attendance and revenue outcomes based on shifting later in the calendar. Mr. Conway also stated that his Board and community are concerned with the fair running when schools have just started and how that affect children’s ag exhibits and animal programs. Mr. Conway requested that Humboldt County Fair be able to complete and evaluate the 2019 meet before committing to an official position.

Mr. Alkire stated that fairs should use the Big Fresno Fair’s success in working with schools while in session to consider expanding their flexibility regarding dates and to enhance community involvement. Mr. Alkire stated that the Big Fresno Fair is open to shifting or not and is good with the dates presented in the proposed calendar.

Mr. Hoban asked if Ms. Stoehr was still on the call to represent San Mateo County Fair’s position and ideal dates. Ms. Stoehr was not present.

The consensus of the Board is that the tentative calendar contained in the packets is supported by the majority of members, but that the Board’s desire is to evaluate the 2019 Humboldt County Fair meet before a calendar is officially adopted.

**Agenda Item 6 – Executive Director’s Report.** No report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Haviland