

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2020**

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, June 2, 2020. The meeting was conducted via teleconference originating at the CARF office, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA, 95815.

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

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

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Vicki Layne, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Jeanne Wasserman, and Louie Brown.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: TBD. The next CARF Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee meeting is to be determined.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes. {ACTION} Mr. Jacobs moved to approve the CARF Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee concurrent meeting minutes for May 5, 2020 as presented. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program. Mr. Brown reported that despite an interrupted legislative calendar, the assembly and house will hold their summer recess July 13 with the legislative deadline for bills in August.

Mr. Brown noted that due to increased budget cuts, Governor Newsom allocated \$1,000,000 in the General Fund to go towards District Agricultural Associations that are experiencing financial distress due to employee furloughs and layoffs. It is not yet known if there will be any federal aid for fairgrounds.

AB 1974, authored by Assemblymember Adam Gray, is currently in appropriations committee and continues to receive resistance from animal activists. The bill, which supports jockey and equine safety reform, will be waiting for final action in committee next week.

SCA 6, the Sports Wagering bill co-authored by Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymember Adam Grey, has continued to receive pushback from the Tribal communities. The bill has reached the Senate GO Committee and now will hear testimony, via teleconference due to COVID-19 restrictions, in support and against the bill. The current bill has received the support of the NBA, MLB and various cardrooms who all support and benefit from sports wagering. The Tribal communities continue to push against sports wagering citing that it is against Federal Law.

Mr. Brown suggests that CARF support the bill if amended to include language that supports sports wagering at live racing fairs and satellites. Further discussion revealed that possible payment plans could follow the lump sum payment method of license fees established by Senator Kenneth Maddy. Mr. Brown adds that the bill has a limited time pass through two houses before summer recess.

Mr. Hoban relayed his concern that despite SCA 6 moving forward in committees, the fairs were not contacted for representation in the current bill language. He encouraged member fairs to reach out to their local representatives and assure that they are heard on the sports wagering front.

Agenda Item 5 – Report and Discussion on COVID-19 Procedures at Racetracks and Satellite Network. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he is in the final stages of creating COVID-19 operation protocols for both Alameda County Fair and the California State Fair. Preparations continue to go well for racing at the Alameda County Fair commencing June 19.

Regarding satellites, Mr. Swartzlander reports that a few satellites are beginning to open including Solano County Fairgrounds and the National Orange Show. Ms. Stoehr reported that San Mateo, and the bay area, are under a more stringent opening policy. Ms. Stoehr predicts her satellite would be open by mid-July. Mr. Hoban agrees that that timeline coincides with his prediction for when restaurants can open and that the satellites should opt to follow that policy due to their restaurant/food services provided in the satellite.

Ms. Stoehr reiterated that she would like some assistance in fielding the numerous COVID-19 policies placed upon her for reopening the satellite. Citing confusion from both the health department, NCOTWINC, CHRB and CARF – Mr. Swartzlander assured her that if she were to meet the requirements of reopening per the health department that her satellite reopening should go well.

Agenda Item 6 – Financials. Mr. Alkire stated that financials are included in the meeting packet and that Ms. Gibbons is available for questions. Ms. Gibbons reported that CARF is currently under their annual audit review by Gilbert. No questions.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Calendar and Live Racing Operations. Mr. Swartzlander reported that CARF will race 7 weeks at the Alameda County Fair with live racing three days a week. At this time, stabling is expected to include an arrangement with Golden Gate Fields in some form of financial payment.

Mr. Swartzlander added that he has received news that Post Time Insurance has settled its issues with an underfunded Workman’s Compensation program and that they plan to move forward with insuring horsemen for the year.

As to satellites, Mr. Swartzlander noted that he is currently working with NCOTWINC to figure out a disbursement of ADW and location fees owed to satellites during the abrupt closures caused by COVID-19.

Mr. Hoban added that his fair board is willing and able to accept the risk of running the 7-week race meet both for the benefit of the racing fairs and for the benefit of keeping the CARF organization intact. Mr. Alkire sends his thanks to the Alameda County Fair board members for their willingness to race during these difficult times.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Director’s Report. None.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Gomes