

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS  
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee  
Concurrent Meeting  
Tuesday, October 5, 2023**

**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, October 5, 2023. The meeting was held via teleconference originating at the Big Fresno Fair, 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702.

CARF Board Directors joining: Stephen Hales, Jerome Hoban, Tom Martinez, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

CARF Live Racing Committee members joining: Greg Gomes, Jerome Hoban and Tom Martinez.

Staff and Guests participating: Larry Swartzlander, Raechelle Gibbons, Juliana Gomes, Ann Grottveit, Louie Brown, Christina Estrada, Terry Gonsalves, Ruben Gastelo, Matt Cranford, Alex Alcantar, Cyndy Dalbeck, Michael Margetts, Stacey Lapham, Edgar Rodriguez, Mike Francesconi, Allen Aldrich, 925-788-6868, 707-322-2213.

**Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting:** November 7, 2023 via teleconference.

**Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment.** None.

**Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.** Item deferred.

**Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes from April 4, May 2, and July 19, 2023.** Mr. Hales moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee concurrent meeting for April 4, May 2 and July 19, 2023 as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 5 – Approval of Live Racing Committee Meeting Minutes from August 3, 2023.** Mr. Hales moved to approve the minutes from the Live Racing Committee meeting for August 3, 2023 as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Agency Bylaws.** Ms. Grottveit notified the Board that due to the bylaw changes with Western Fair’s Association CARF/WFA Liaison seat, that CARF update their bylaws to broaden the eligibility to fill board seats. Mr. Grottveit quoted that this change would “...broaden it to allow CARF to elect a director by the membership to be designated a representative of an entity that represents California fairs as a member of the Board.”

The Board thanked Ms. Grottveit for her work and summarized that this change would bring the CARF Bylaws to current practices and allow for greater flexibility.

**Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program.** Mr. Brown reported that the legislature is currently in recess but that CARF was successful in the passing of AB1074. AB1074 was signed by the Governor and was applauded by Mr. Brown on the industry coming together to get the bill passed in record time.

**Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Calypso Challenge.** Mr. Swartzlander noted that he was successful in procuring a legal firm to provide an updated legal opinion letter and that current talks were underway with tote companies to host Calypso. Mr. Swartzlander added that his new target date for Calypso is August 1, 2024.

**Agenda Item 9 – Financials.** Ms. Gibbons stated that financials through August 31, 2023 are included in the meeting packet and that CARF is currently in the middle of the Big Fresno Fair’s race meet. Ms. Gibbon’s added that the 2022 Financial Review has been completed by Gilbert and Associates and will plan on a presentation during the November board meeting. Mr. Hoban called for questions; no questions at this time.

**Agenda Item 10 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any on Racing Calendar and Live Racing Operations.** Mr. Swartzlander reported that the live racing dates for 2024 had been approved at the September 21<sup>st</sup> CHRB meeting. The notable changes to the fair racing calendar include both Humboldt County Fair and Sonoma County Fair running three weeks – both meets will run with no overlap.

Discussions are positive and ongoing with Cal Expo, Santa Rosa and CARF as the industry works together to form Capitol Racing and find a future home for thoroughbred racing after the closure of Golden Gate Fields.

**Agenda Item 11 – Executive Director’s Report.** Mr. Swartzlander introduced Christina Estrada, interim Big Fresno Fair CEO, to the membership. Mr. Hoban wished good luck to Fresno on the closing week of their race meet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliana Gomes