

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Special Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 2023

MINUTES

A concurrent special meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, July 19, 2023. The meeting was held via teleconference originating at the CARF office, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA 95815.

CARF Board Directors joining by conference call: Stephen Hales, Dan Jacobs, Tom Martinez and Dana Stoehr.

CARF Live Racing Committee members joining by conference call: Tom Martinez.

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Cody Boyles, Mike Francesconi, Matt Cranford, Bill Nader, Wayne Atwell, Ruben Gastelo, Jeanne Wasserman, Johnny Taboada, Larry Odbert, Michael Haake, Ramon Silva, Angel Moore, Becky Bartling, Blaine Wright, John Tipton, Ed Moger, Mark Harmon, Jordyn Egan, Allen Aldrich, Jim Morgan, Duane Martin, Richard Rosenberg, Stephanie Wedge Rockefeller, Matt Dohman, Justin Oldfield, Tom McCarthy, Eddie Rich, 707-496-8841, 650-222-8152, 209-576-0629, 209-759-3315, 415-760-8090, 415-307-4723, 510-847-1819, 909-570-1378, 323-353-2030, 650-218-2688, 510-812-9277, 650-302-4609, 707-975-3853, 707-320-3382, 707-326-2361, 925-297-9590, 714-820-2722, 762-200-2463, 707-443-3158, 510-331-9343, 626-216-6595, 859-221-9895, 925-462-8428, 510-375-7333, 925-339-2727, 310-869-1919, 650-274-1069, 415-517-1350, 619-609-8761, 925-785-6868, 650-222-4704 and 408-483-4519.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: TBD via teleconference.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. Item deferred to after Agenda Item 5. Mr. Martinez opened closed session by expressing his concern and condolences for the horsemen, backstretch workers and employees affected by the announcement of Golden Gate Fields anticipated closure.

Mr. Swartzlander asked all speakers to please identify themselves and to provide comments only, as questions will not be answered at this time.

Bill Nader, President and CEO, Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC): Mr. Nader stated that he listened intently to what has been said and feels that we are all rowing in the same boat trying to formulate what might be options for the industry to consider collectively,

understanding the many stakeholders and people affected. Mr. Nader stated that as industry discussion continues and questions are answered, TOC will be able to form a position.

Doug Burge, President, California Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CTBA): Mr. Burge stated that his organization represents breeders throughout California and that 60% of horses that race in Northern California are Cal-Breds. CTBA supports the expanded calendar CARF has presented and will back efforts that give horsemen confidence that they can breed in California, buy and sell in California sales and feel assured that racing will continue in Northern California.

Blaine Wright, Trainer: Mr. Wright stated that he and Tim McCanna are Washington-based horsemen and that the closure of smaller tracks in Washington, for reasons similar to what California is now facing, have resulted in decimating the racing and breeding industry, resulting in foal crops of 200 horses annually. Mr. Wright stated that he will support the efforts being made to continue racing in Northern California and believes that consolidating racing to the larger tracks in Southern California could have similar long-term effects to what has occurred in Washington.

Jim Morgan, member of the public: Mr. Morgan applauded CARF's efforts and supports retaining and protecting host status in Northern California, thereby seizing the opportunity to enhance purses, undertake capital improvements and establish economic viability in Northern California.

Justin Oldfield, Northern California Breeder and Farm Owner: Mr. Oldfield thanked CARF for addressing the Golden Gate Fields announcement so quickly and wanted to echo Mr. Burge's comments regarding the California breeding program and protecting the viability of raising foals in Northern California. Mr. Oldfield supports CARF efforts to race year-round in Northern California, but stressed coming to a resolution as quickly as possible to give owners of breeding stock time to make the necessary decisions depending on the outcome of the 2024 Northern California racing calendar.

Michael Haake, representative Local 280: Mr. Haake expressed support of retaining year-round racing in Northern California on behalf of mutual employees and supports the Sonoma County Fair rejoining CARF.

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Mr. Martinez reported that the CARF Board of Directors heard legal counsel related to the anticipated closure of Golden Gate Fields in closed session; no action taken.

Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Stabling and Racing Transition from Golden Gate Fields. Mr. Swartzlander referred to a point paper he circulated to the Board and public titled, "DRAFT CARF Position on 2024 Racing Program." CARF's

initial reaction to The Stronach Group's (TSG) announcement of their intent to permanently close Golden Gate Fields and cease racing in Northern California is that CARF will need to establish a base of operations to continue year-round racing in the Northern zone. Mr. Swartzlander feels it is essential for Golden Gate Fields to stay open through June 2024 to give horsemen sufficient time to relocate their families and horses while giving CARF the opportunity to begin establishing a hub for year-round racing operations. Mr. Swartzlander stated TSG's announcement is recent and leaves almost all questions unanswered. He asked for the public's patience while CARF staff tries to ascertain more information to formulate a path forward for the horsemen, backstretch workers, track employees, vendors, and fans.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Fantasy Sports. Mr. Swartzlander reported that CARF staff continues to move forward in updating the legal opinion regarding the legality of fantasy contests in California.

Agenda Item 6 – Executive Director's Report. No report.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland