

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS  
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee  
Concurrent Meeting  
Tuesday, December 12, 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, December 12, 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, Jerome Hoban, Dan Jacobs, Tom Martinez, and Kelly Violini.

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

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Tom Doutrich, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Cody Boyles, Daniel Castillo, Matt Cranford, Ruben Gastelo, Tiffany Loushin, Allen Aldrich, and (510) 775-4466.

**Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024, via teleconference.

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

**Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation.** Mr. Hoban reported that the board had discussed with legal counsel and instructed staff to move forward with tote contract discussions for Calypso Challenge.

**Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes from September 5, September 8, October 5, November 14, 2023.** {ACTION} Mr. Martinez moved to approve the CARF Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee meeting minutes from September 5, September 8, October 5, November 14, 2023 as presented. Mr. Hales seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 5 – Report on Agency Bylaws Adopted December 1, 2023.** Ms. Haviland reported that the Agency Bylaws were approved by CARF membership mail-in vote and that the revised Bylaws are included in the packet.

**Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program.** Mr. Boyles reported that the legislature remains in recess until January 3, 2024 and that the state budget will face an estimated \$68 billion deficit. Mr. Boyles added that public programs will be expecting heavy cuts to offset the shortfall.

**Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Calypso Challenge.** Mr. Swartzlander reported that he had received board approval to pursue contract negotiations with a new tote company and will return to the board when he receives further details.

**Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on the 2024 Budget.** Ms. Gibbons shared the 2024 CARF Agency & Live Racing Budget and highlighted several categories after discussions with the Finance Committee.

Ms. Gibbons provided a large-scale overview and noted a few changes in budget such as a Financial Review with Gilbert in 2023 will require a higher expense in 2024 for the Gilbert full audit.

{ACTION} Mr. Martinez, per recommendation and action of the CARF Finance Committee, moved to approve the 2024 CARF Agency & Live Racing Budget as presented. Mr. Hales seconded, unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item 9 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Golden Gate Fields Closure and 2024 Racing Calendar.** Mr. Swartzlander summarized that he continues to work on negotiations for the future site of Northern California racing. Mr. Swartzlander added that there is concern with Golden Gate Fields cutting purses by 25% but is hopeful that as CARF moves forward, there can be some assurance given for the future of racing in Northern California.

**Agenda Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report.** Mr. Swartzlander will be reviewing his yearly CARF Objectives and will be in contact with the Board regarding his and CARF staff employee evaluations.

Mr. Swartzlander plans to undergo medical evaluation for his heart within the week and expects to undergo a procedure sometime in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliana Gomes