

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Tuesday, April 2, 2024

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, April 2, 2024. 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, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

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

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Louie Brown, Cody Boyles, Michael Francesconi, Michael Flores, Matt Cranford, Moira Kenney, Angel Moore, Jen McGuire, Tiffany Loushin, Bill Patterson, Allen Aldrich, Stacey Lapham, James Morgan and Marielena Rodriguez.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 7, 2024, via teleconference.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation and Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Mr. Hoban reported that the CARF Board met in closed session, heard advice from legal counsel regarding several issues of anticipated litigation and performed an Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, and took the following action:

{**ACTION**} The CARF Board voted unanimously to provide a salary increase to the Executive Director.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2024. {**ACTION**} Mr. Hales moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 5, 2024, as presented. Mr. Hoban seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program. Mr. Boyles reported that this year’s CARF spot bill, AB 1946 (Alanis), has entered the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee and will be available should CARF need a vehicle for any of this year’s legislative needs. Last year, the CARF spot bill was used as a vehicle to pass AB 1074 which has kept Golden Gate Fields open till June of this year.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Calypso Challenge. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he has received a draft agreement from United Tote and AMWager to provide tote services for Calypso Challenge. Mr. Swartzlander adds he is close to final agreements and plans to send these agreements to both CDFA and the board before seeking approval at next month’s board meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Golden State Racing. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he had finalized an agreement with Grants Pass Downs to purchase stalls and expects their delivery to Pleasanton in 2-3 weeks. Current improvements are ongoing to prepare the Pleasanton backside and the foundational base required for the stalls.

Mr. Doutrich and Mr. Swartzlander have finished draft purse overpayment forecasts and purse schedules for the first GSR meet and plan to finalize these with TOC in the coming days.

Mr. Hoban added that he and Mr. Swartzlander have completed a line of credit agreement with the guidance of Ms. Grottveit and requests that CARF board approve.

{ACTION} Mr. Jacobs requested for the Board to approve the terms of the Secured Revolving Line of Credit Promissory Note as described by Ms. Grottveit. Mr. Hales moved, Ms. Violini seconded. YES VOTE: Mr. Jacobs, Mr. Hales, Ms. Violini, Ms. Stoehr. ABSTAIN: Mr. Hoban and Mr. Martinez. Motion passes.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Formally Recognizing the Northern California Racing Advisory Committee of Horsemen to Advise on Matters Pertaining to Golden State Racing. Mr. Swartzlander notified the board that the Northern California Racing Advisory Committee consists of a mix of trainers, breeders and owners and applauds them in their involvement and input in assisting with Golden State Racing.

Chaired by breeder/owner Justin Oldfield of Daehling Thoroughbreds, Mr. Swartzlander requested the board to formally recognize the group as CARF continues to navigate the changing landscape without Golden Gate Fields. Mr. Swartzlander added that this group does not supplant other horseman’s groups, such as CTBA, but would only assist on focusing on the needs of Northern California.

Ms. Grottveit added that included in the CARF JPA agreement, under Article 8, section B, that CARF may form committees that are appropriate for the business of the authority and as such would classify the proposed committee as an Advisory Committee.

{ACTION} Mr. Jacobs moved to formally recognize the Northern California Racing Advisory Committee of Horsemen to advise on matters pertaining to Golden State Racing, Mr. Martinez seconded. Unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Summer Fair Racing Operations. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he has an agreement with the California Thoroughbred Trainers (CTT) and is also finalizing the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) horsemen’s agreement. Pending approval, the parties have agreed that there will be a 10% reduction in purses and a reduction to certain stakes races to ensure a balanced purse account.

Mr. Swartzlander added that the Pleasanton CHRB Race Application has been submitted and staff will continue to move forward with the following meets' applications.

Agenda Item 9 – Financials. Ms. Gibbons reported that the financials provided were the same as last month’s and that she is currently preparing for CARF’s 2023 financial audit.

Mr. Hoban requested that Ms. Gibbons prepare a report monthly for the usage of the GSR line of credit to keep the board apprised for full transparency.

Agenda Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he and Mr. Doutrich plan to travel next week to Arizona’s Turf Paradise for horseman’s recruitment.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Gomes