

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Live Racing Committee
Tuesday, June 1, 2010

MINUTES

A meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs Live Racing Committee was held at 11:00 A.M., Tuesday, June 1, 2010. The meeting was hosted at the California Authority of Racing Fairs board room located at 1776 Tribute Road, Suite 205, Sacramento, California.

CARF Live Racing Committee members attending: John Alkire, Norb Bartosik, Debbie Cook, Mike Paluszak, Rick Pickering and Stuart Titus. Joining by conference call: Tawny Tesconi.

Staff and Guests attending: Christopher Korby, Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Tom Doutrich, Amelia White, Louie Brown, Raechelle Gibbons, Stuart Titus, Kelly Violini, Dave Elliott, Mitch Slater, Dan Jacobs, Rebecca Desmond and Richard Lewis . Joining by conference call: Kate Phariss and Chris Carpenter.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting. The next CARF Board & Live Racing Committee meetings will be held Tuesday, September 7, 2010 in Sacramento, time to be determined.

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes. Mr. Bartosik moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Pickering seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Matters. Item deferred to CARF Board of Director’s meeting.

Agenda Item 4 – Report on NTRA Accreditation Program. Mr. Korby reported that the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance has developed a set of standards and an accreditation program to ensure that qualifying racing associations meet specific safety and integrity compliance standards. The accreditation program is voluntary and focuses on human and equine safety as well as wagering security. The accreditation process includes a written application and on-site inspection by an Alliance safety team. In California, Golden Gate Fields, Santa Anita, Hollywood Park, Del Mar and Oak Tree Racing Association have received accreditation. Mr. Korby has been in communication with the NTRA about receiving a discount for inspecting the Fair circuit facilities.

Mr. Swartzlander reported that Dr. Mick Peterson, a University of Maine professor of mechanical engineering and a recognized expert in racetrack surface research, has developed a

robotic device that duplicates the force and speed of a horse's hoof as it runs on a race track. Data generated by these and other tests will work in conjunction with a national injury database to help distinguish and correct the origin of equine injuries.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Track Safety and Maintenance Program and Equipment Leases. Mr. Swartzlander reported that \$80,000 is set aside each year from the F&E Track Safety and Maintenance Fund allocation for the purchase of new equipment. CARF currently owns five tractors, two graders and six harrows and has not purchased new equipment in the prior three years. Staff feels that a sixth tractor is needed to meet the needs of the evolving circuit program. In addition, CARF has three 1999 John Deere 8250T tractors that will not meet future Federal environmental regulations (required in 2014). Those tractors will need to be phased out of the track maintenance program or retrofitted to meet the new requirements.

Staff has secured three bids for a John Deere 8295RT tractor and recommends that the Committee move to approve the bid supplied by Mid-Cal Tractor based on: 1) Price of bid (lowest of the three); 2) Prior reliability of Mid-Cal Tractor's equipment and maintenance service; and 3) Mid-Cal Tractor will allow CARF to lease the tractor until an interest free purchase program is implemented in October, saving almost \$30,000 over the life of the loan.

Mr. Pickering moved to approve the purchase of a John Deere 8295RT tractor from Mid-Cal Tractor. Ms. Cook seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Calendar for 2011 and Beyond. Mr. Korby introduced a draft calendar that captured the date scenario as discussed by the Committee at the May CARF Live Racing Committee meeting. The draft calendar is presented as follows:

- Jan. 1 – March 13, 2011 – Golden Gate Fields (four days per week)
- March 16 – April 10, 2011 – Pleasanton (three days per week)
- April 13 – June 12, 2011 – Golden Gate Fields
- June 15 – Sept. 5, 2011 – Fair Block
- Sept. 9 – 25, 2011 – Golden Gate Fields (three days per week)
- Sept. 30 – Oct. 16, 2011 – Fresno
- Oct. 19 – Dec. 18, 2011 – Golden Gate Fields

Mr. Korby reiterated that protecting the Fair block of dates is an important component of the current calendar in order to allow talks to proceed with industry principals, but that the calendar does not provide a recommendation of date allocation within the block. Mr. Pickering voiced approval of the overall increase in Fair dates as presented in the calendar.

Mr. Titus stated that the Humboldt County Fair would request to run in its tradition place in the calendar without overlapping with another facility. Mr. Bartosik stated that if the calendar allocation allowed, and the group could come to an agreement, Cal Expo would like a third week of racing. Ms. Cook stated that the Stockton Board of Directors would like two weeks of racing at Stockton and would be open to discussing all options, including another spot on the calendar, if necessary. Mr. Paluszak stated that if he felt the industry would support racing at the Solano County Fair, he would request two weeks of racing. Mr. Lewis stated that he could not speak specifically to the Santa Rosa dates, but felt that the Fairs had a unique opportunity, given the CHRB's displeasure with MI Developments, to make a unified push for an increase in dates. Mr. Pickering stated that Pleasanton was open to running additional meets, operated by CARF, depending on the timeliness of the industry commitment and the surface requirements.

Mr. Doutrich reported that the Fairs should consider only running the number of days that the horse population will support, which might mean racing three days a week. Mr. Doutrich also reported that Hollywood Park is considering not racing Wednesdays and will experiment with Thursday night racing.

Mr. Pickering moved to approve the block of the dates on the calendar presented, with a modification of moving the spring meet at Pleasanton back a week (March 25 – April 17). Mr. Titus stated that he would vote in favor of the calendar with the consideration that Ferndale will request to race without overlap when the details of the calendar are discussed. Mr. Bartosik seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Policy Regarding Horsemen's Passes.

Mr. Korby requested that to create uniformity and a sense of expectation, the Fairs adopt a consistent policy for the distribution of Horsemen's Passes. CARF staff recommends that Fairs offer horsemen two passes per day with a valid CHRB license and four passes on a day when horsemen have a horse running. The Racing Secretary would request 200 passes per Fair and jockeys would receive four passes per day. Mr. Swartzlander stated that it is important to create a set minimum for the Fair Circuit.

Mr. Doutrich stated that in 2009, some Fairs might have been too loose with passes while others were generating complaints from horsemen. Mr. Doutrich stressed the importance of taking care of trainers and owners with the current horse shortage and making owners feel welcome.

Mr. Korby requested that Fair Managers consider using the document included in the meeting packet as a guideline for Fairs to implement as a minimum pass policy.

Mr. Bartosik moved that CARF staff work with individual Fair Managers if a problem with the distribution of passes occurs at a Fair and that CARF not implement a standard pass guideline. Mr. Pickering seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion and Action, if any, on Plans, Preparation and Agreements Related to Conduct of Live Racing. Mr. Korby reported that the appropriate horsemen’s agreements are in place and this item was included on the agenda to create an opportunity to voice questions about the upcoming 2010 racing season.

Agenda Item 9 – Report from Racing Secretary. Mr. Doutrich reported that the racing office would be taking entries for Stockton in two weeks. There are currently 179 horses stabled at Stockton and 575 at Pleasanton.

Golden Gate Fields had an average field size of 6.5 in May, compared to 8 in 2009. Mr. Doutrich feels that the Fairs are offering a strong stakes and purse schedule and he is optimistic that the Fairs will fill well despite the decrease in horse population. The condition book for Stockton are out and the Pleasanton condition book will print soon. The racing office will concentrate on creating the strongest Friday, Saturday and Sunday cards possible.

Agenda Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Korby reported that the agreement between the TOC and Fairs to deal with purse overpayments and underpayments will be reviewed by the CHRB Finance Committee on June 20, 2010.

Mr. Korby also reported that the CHRB will be reviewing the waiver that allows MI Developments to own and operate two racing facilities in California.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland