Virginia Racing Commission

MINUTES

OF THE

COMMISSION MEETING

July 1, 2015

Patrick Henry Building
West Reading Room
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

In Attendance
Commission Members:
J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr., Chairman
D.G. Van Clief, Jr., Vice Chairman
Carol G. Dawson
I. Clinton Miller
Charles Steger, PhD

Commission Staff:
Bernard J. Hettel, Executive Secretary
C. Richard Harden, DVM, Equine Medical Director
David S. Lermond, Jr., Deputy Executive Secretary
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator

Office of Agriculture and Forestry
Sam Towell, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Attorney General's Office:
Joshua Laws, Esq.

At 10:03 a.m., the regular monthly meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) was called to order by Chairman Reynolds.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §59.1-364; 365; 369 and 392.1,and following a presentation by Frank Petromalo Jr., of the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, (VHBPA) which provided sufficient evidence, the Commission unanimously approved the VHBPA as the recognized Majority Horsemen's Group for Thoroughbreds for a period of three (3) years.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §59.1-364; 365; 369 and 392.1, and following a presentation by Dr. R. C. Dunavant, Jr., President, which provided sufficient evidence, the Commission unanimously approved the Virginia Harness Horse Association (VHHA) as the recognized Majority Horsemen's Group for Standardbreds for a period of three (3) years.

Pursuant to Virginia Code §59.1-364; 365; 369 and 392.1, and following a presentation by Jeb Hannum, Executive Director, which provided sufficient evidence, the Commission unanimously approved the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) as the recognized non-profit industry stakeholder organization for a period of three (3) years.

The minutes of the regular meeting held on May 12, 2015 were unanimously approved as amended. The minutes of the working sessions held on May 28 and June 9, 2015 were approved unanimously.

The Commission unanimously approved a request by the Virginia Thoroughbred Association for the distribution of Virginia Breeders' Fund money for purses for five Virginia-bred stakes races to be run at Laurel Park in Maryland, as well as money for four other open stakes races usually run in Virginia to be run in Maryland. Total funds to be disbursed was $750,000, of which $50,000 will be distributed from the Virginia Breeders Fund. The VTA argued that, due to the closing of Colonial Downs, there was currently no other facility in Virginia available to host those races. They further argued that unless the races were held this year, the graded stakes accreditation might not be retained for 2016, when it is hoped the races could return to Virginia.

The Commission unanimously approved the review of Administrative Regulations for proposed amendments to Chapters 20, 30, 40 and 45.

During the public comment period, Mrs. Rhonda Holland of Arrington, Virginia stated that she is pleased to see progress being made toward restoring and growing the sport of horse racing in Virginia. Mr. Tad Berman expressed his concerns regarding revenue from Virginia wagering being used to finance out of state purses. Mr. Berman also expressed some concerns regarding payments to Easter Associates for work done for the Virginia Equine Alliance.

The next Commission meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, July 29, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business set forth on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.