



Agriculture & NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund

MINUTES

Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund
Board of Trustees Meeting
Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame
Goshen, New York
Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Trustees: Peter Arrigenna & Mike Kimelman; Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball; Jackie Czub, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, Acting Executive Director of the Agriculture and NYS Horse Breeding Development Fund Ron Ochrym; NYS Gaming Commission Assistant Counsel and Fund Counsel Mark Stuart; Agriculture & New York State Horse Breeding Development Executive Assistant Connie Richardson; NYS Gaming Commission Senior Accountant Brian Squadere; Christy Calicchia of the Gaming Commission, John Graziano, Jr. and Angie McGrath – Capitol Hill Management Services; Meghan Baker and Jason Politi from Baker Public Relations

Agenda Item #1 – Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was present and the meeting of the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding and Development Fund (Fund) was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

Agenda Item #2 – Designate a Fund Member as Presiding Officer: A motion was made to designate Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Ball as the Presiding Officer of the meeting. Motion made by Member Kimelman, seconded by Member Arrigenna. All in favor.

Before going to the agenda, Presiding Officer Ball made a few remarks. He noted that in addition to the Members present he noted the following staff: Ron Ochrym – who serves as the Acting Executive Director of the Agriculture and New York State Horse Breeding Development Fund, Mark Stuart who serves as the Fund's counsel, Connie Richardson, Christy Calicchia of the Gaming Commission and Brian Squadere who provide staff support to the Fund, and John Graziano, Jr. and Angie McGrath, both from Capitol Hill Management Services (providing Administrative and Marketing/Promotional Services to the Fund), and Meghan Baker and Jason Politi from Baker Public Relations.

Presiding Officer Ball then opened the meeting to Public Comment before going to the Agenda. He thanked the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame for hosting the meeting. He then provided a history of the Museum noting the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame is dedicated to comprehensive, active and authoritative support and promotion of the Standardbred industry through documentation and preservation of the history and traditions of this American-born sport. The Museum maintains and preserves the history of harness racing and serves as a hall of fame for those, both human and Standardbred, whose significant achievements have made a positive impact upon the sport. Its exhibitory space includes a preserved stable, theaters, galleries, a children's play area and even a 3-D simulator that provides visitors with the experience of driving a Standardbred in a race. The Fund has held an annual meeting at this historic location for the past three years.

Presiding Officer Ball then went to public comment. Alice Allen asked to be recognized and proceeded to relay her thoughts on the Fund's programs. Bob Hayden, of the Harness Youth Foundation, noted his attendance on behalf of the Foundation.

With no other Speakers, Presiding Officer Ball asked for discussion on Item #3 – Approval of Minutes.

Agenda Item #3 - Minutes of Last Meeting of April 27, 2017: Minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2017 were presented for approval. A motion to accept the Minutes of April 27, 2017 was made by Member Arrigenna and seconded by Member Kimelman. All in favor.

Agenda Item 4: Grants: Presiding Officer Ball noted that the budget included \$150,000 in grant funding. He provided a summary of last year's grant awarding noting that 6 organizations received funding. He noted that a notice was posted on the Fund's website outlining the 2017 grant program. He added, as done every year, that those recipients of grants must provide an accounting on how the money was spent (with documentation) by year's end. He noted that five grant recipients had already provided such documentation for 2017. He further stated that if a grantee does not provide this information they will not be eligible for a grant in 2018.

The Fund discussed a number of grants received for consideration for Calendar year 2017. Presiding Officer Ball noted that he would first welcome a discussion of all the grant requests and then the Members could discuss how much funding should be allotted to each proposal accepted. The Fund received 5 requests which included the following:

Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame
Goshen Historic Track
New York State 4-H
Racing Under Saddle
Harness Horse Youth Foundation

All the following grants noted below were considered and approved by the Fund Board:

Goshen Museum	\$48,750	3-0
Historic Track	\$48,750	2-0 (Kimelman – Abstained)
4-H	\$40,000	3-0
Racing Under Saddle	\$ 5,000	3-0
Harness Youth Foundation	\$ 7,500	3-0

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion of Breeders Awards: Presiding Officer Ball asked Member Kimelman to lead the discussion the Breeders Awards; Member Kimelman, after discussion, suggested raising the Breeders Awards for 2 year olds by \$100,000 to \$600,000. The motion to increase the 2-year-old Breeder Awards by \$100,000 was made by Member Kimelman and seconded by Member Arrigenna. All in favor.

Agenda Item 6 – Consideration of Eligibility of Yearlings and Stallions Conditions: The next item was an issue that the Fund addressed at the December 2016 meeting where the Fund approved Eligibility of Yearlings and Stallions Conditions for the first time since 2007. He noted that since the conditions did not change there was no need to change them and they remained in effect each year. However, given the change in the 10 year lease requirement which the Legislative enacted in 2014, there was a need to amend these conditions. It was noted that at the Fund's December meeting, the Members discussed adjustments to these conditions especially the one half the registration fee in addition to the regulatory registration fee due January 1 of each year of enrollment as a re-entry fee and the 2 year waiting period for a stallion.

leaving the state prior to December 31 of the year for which he was duly registered before they can re-enter the program. The adjustments were proposed in a motion by Member Arrigenna and seconded by Member Kimelman. All in favor.

Agenda Item 7 – Capitol Hill Management Services: Capitol Hill Management Service provided a summary of the services that they have provided. John Graziano, Jr. and Angie McGrath, both from CHMS; and Meghan Baker and Jason Politi from Baker Public Relations, provided a presentation to the Members that discussed what they have done since being awarded the Request for Quotation for Administrative Services and the Request for Proposals for Marketing and Promotional Services in May.

Agenda Item 8 – Executive Session: Presiding Officer Ball called for the Members to reconvene into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The matter was limited to personnel matters as provided under New York Public Officers Law Section 105.1.f. A motion was made by Member Kimelman and seconded by Member Arrigenna. All in favor.

Return from Executive Session: Upon returning from the Executive Session, Presiding Officer Ball thanked everyone again for their patience. He noted that they just concluded an Executive Session where the Fund discussed personnel matters as provided under Public Officers Law Section 105.1 and then returned to the Agenda.

Agenda Item 9 – New/Old Business: Members discussed 5 horse fields, payments to the Fund and forms. Staff noted that additional information on these items would be provided to the Members.

Agenda Item 10: Adjourn: Presiding Officer Ball noting that all business on the Agenda was completed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Member Kimelman made a motion to adjourn seconded by Member Arrigenna. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.