

TTA Board of Directors Meeting
August 25, 2013 5:00 p.m. Lone Star Park

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Carson and the roll was called with the following directors present: Carson, Farris, Few, Jordan, Leckinger, Maikranz, Martinez, Rich, Shifflett and Wiggins. Directors Bradfield, Cook, and Stephens participated via conference call. Directors Adger, Allen, Asmussen, Hartis, Hessee, Lovell, Milligan and Witt were absent. Executive Director Mary Ruyle, Accreditation/Racing Manager Jennifer Gibbs and guests Jan Haynes, Fred Taylor and Scott Wells also attended.

Directors Adger and Lovell had given their proxy to Ken Carson; Director Witt had given his proxy to Director Leckinger and Director Hartis had given her proxy to Director Shifflett.

Director Rich made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15 Board Meeting, the July 15 ATB Race Committee conference call and the August 13 Budget Oversight Committee conference call. Director Few seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

President Carson reported on the recent Jockey Club Round Table meeting in New York.

Executive Director Ruyle provided an update on the office relocation schedule.

Carson introduced Jan Haynes, President of the Texas Thoroughbred HBPA, who explained the process by which breed splits are determined for purse revenue generated from simulcasting and the escrowed horse purse account. She provided historical background information and reviewed current data for Texas and other states supporting the intention of the TTHBPA to seek higher percentages for Thoroughbreds in 2014. She stated the need for support of this effort by the horsemen and will be providing further information as it becomes available. Ms. Haynes departed at 6:00 pm and the meeting resumed after a short break.

TTA member Fred Taylor of Fort Worth gave a presentation on social media, citing ways businesses and other organizations are utilizing it to expand their presence and improve communication. Director Martinez announced that the newly formed Marketing and Sponsorship Committee will be meeting soon to discuss these issues and more. Mr. Taylor departed the meeting.

Carson introduced Remington Park President and General Manager Scott Wells, who will now also be filling the same position for Lone Star Park. Wells gave a brief report on his background and experience, and discussed plans for additional improvements at Lone Star Park, including equipment upgrades to achieve better visual quality for simulcast signals.

Director Few made a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending July 31, 2013. Director Wiggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Staff was temporarily excused from the meeting.

Director Leckinger made a motion to approve one-time employee bonuses for Jennifer Gibbs and Cheri Grant to be paid in the current fiscal year, ending August 31, 2013. Director Wiggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Shifflett made a motion to approve one-time employee bonuses for Jennifer Gibbs and Cheri Grant to be paid in December 2013. Director Few seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Martinez made a motion to renew the employment agreement for Executive Director Mary Ruyle for the next fiscal year comprising September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014. Director Leckinger seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Ruyle rejoined the meeting.

Director Martinez made a motion to approve the draft budget for the 2013 – 2014 fiscal year, with the addition of the previously approved bonuses to be paid in December 2013. Director Cook seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Gibbs rejoined the meeting.

Director Wiggins provided a Racing Committee update, referring to the July 15 Committee conference call minutes.

Director Rich made a motion to approve a request for support by Sam Houston Race Park in seeking to make changes to the 2014 live Thoroughbred racing schedule, deleting 7 Sundays, adding 8 Tuesdays and 1 Monday. Director Wiggins seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

Director Wiggins made a motion to approve an amendment to the Bylaws providing for resolution of a tie vote in the Board of Directors election. Director Farris seconded and the motion carried unanimously among those participating and voting.

The next meeting was scheduled for 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1st via conference call to approve a slate of candidates to run for election to the board in December.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.