

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

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, May 5, 2020. The meeting was conducted by teleconference originating at the CARF office, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA, 95815.

CARF Board Directors attending by conference call: John Alkire, Richard Conway, Jerome Hoban, Dan Jacobs, Rick Pickering, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

CARF Live Racing Committee members attending by conference call: John Alkire, Richard Conway, Jerome Hoban and Rick Pickering.

Staff and Guests participating: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Vicki Layne, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Louie Brown, Cody Boyles, John Quiroz, Cindy Olsen, Duane Martin, Lauri King, Stacey Lapham, Patrick Hui, Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Cody Boyles, Lisa Wilkerson and Terri Eaton.

Agenda Item 1 – Closed Session: For the Purposes of Receiving Advice from Counsel Concerning Pending Litigation and Reaching Decisions on Personnel Matters, as Authorized by the Brown Act. Ms. Grottveit reported that the Board met in closed session to receive legal advice regarding potential litigation, as well as financial consideration in regards to personnel, and that no action was taken by the Board.

Agenda Item 2 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: June 2, 2020 in Sacramento. The next CARF Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. June 2, 2020 by teleconference originating in Sacramento.

Agenda Item 3 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes. {ACTION} Mr. Pickering moved to approve the CARF Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee concurrent meeting minutes for April 7, 2020 as presented. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program. Mr. Boyles reported that members of the Assembly are returning to Sacramento this week, with the

Senate choosing to do so on May 11. Neither house is planning to reconvene for final votes on bills until June due to the challenges of adequate social distancing in the chambers of the Senate and Assembly. Mr. Boyles stated that Assemblymember Adam Gray is moving forward with his equine safety reform bill, AB 1974, and that the Assembly G.O. Committee will be hearing the bill next Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Chambers. Senator Bill Dodd will have a similar equine reform bill moving through the Senate.

Mr. Pickering stated that the language in AB 1974 (Gray) identifying that “existing law establishes the Fairs and Exposition Fund for the purposes of allocating moneys to provide financial support for the network of California fairs” seems to be referring to the license fees generated at Fairs and distributed to F&E that are used for fair track safety and maintenance. Mr. Pickering stated that the same section in AB 1974 goes on to discuss the creation of the Horse and Jockey Safety and Welfare Account in the F&E Fund. Mr. Pickering asked Mr. Boyles for clarification that the proposed new fund would not be financed from the existing license fees generated at fairs. Mr. Boyles stated that he believed using existing fair license fees was not the author’s intent and that he would look into the matter further. Mr. Quiroz stated that F&E staff would review the language.

Ms. Stoehr requested clarification on where the funds are coming from and where they are going to in order to create clarity of understanding before a vote. Mr. Hoban suggested the CARF Board support the bill with a caveat that the newly created fund does not utilize the existing Fair license fee distribution to F&E. Ms. Stoehr stated that she would support an equine reform bill as long as it does not negatively impact the fair industry.

[ACTION] Mr. Hoban moved to continue support of AB 1974 (Gray) as long as the bill does not impact the monies currently generated by Fairs that is distributed to F&E for fair race track safety and maintenance, or any other fair funding mechanism. Ms. Stoehr seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Report and Discussion on COVID-19 at Racetracks and Satellite Network Closure. Mr. Swartzlander reported that George Haines at SCOTWINC is preparing to reopen the Southern satellites, with COVID-19 protocols in place, as soon as it is reasonably safe and legal to do so.

Ms. Stoehr asked if CARF was preparing COVID-19 cleaning/safety guidelines and if the agency would provide funds to make any required modifications to the satellite buildings. Mr. Swartzlander stated that CARF staff would be providing guidelines and that there are funds available at CARF that could be used in that manner at the recommendation of the CARF Finance Committee.

Mr. Alkire left the meeting. Mr. Hoban moved to adjourn the meeting and defer the remaining agenda items to the next CARF Board meeting. Mr. Conway seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 7 – Financials. Item deferred.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Racing Calendar and Live Racing Operations. Item deferred.

Agenda Item 7 – Executive Director’s Report. Item deferred.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Haviland