

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Tuesday, March 5, 2024

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, March 5, 2024. The meeting was held via teleconference originating at the CARF office, 1776 Tribute Road, Sacramento, CA 95815.

CARF Board Directors joining by conference call: Daniel Castillo, Stephen Hales, Jerome Hoban, Dan Jacobs, Tom Martinez, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

CARF Live Racing Committee members joining by conference call: Christina Estrada, Jerome Hoban and Tom Martinez.

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Louie Brown, Matt Cranford, Moira Kenney, Christian Estrada, Angel Moore, Terry Gonsalves, Tiffany Loushin, Ruben Gastelo, Marielena Rodriguez, Marielena Trujillo, Bill Patterson, Jordon Egan, Allen Aldrich, Stacey Lapham, Tag Wotherspoon, Annie Donahey, James Morgan.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 2, 2024, via teleconference.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. None.

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation and Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Ms. Grottveit reported that the CARF Board met in closed session, heard advice from legal counsel regarding several issues of anticipated litigation, including concerns related to the upcoming Golden Gate Fields closure and 2024 racing dates, and took the following action:

{ACTION} The CARF Board voted unanimously, with one abstention and one recusal, to approve a motion whereby any line of credit or funding provided to facilitate racing in northern California, during the dates vacated by the closure of Golden Gate Fields, be repaid prior to revenue sharing, until such loan is repaid, or further action is taken by the CARF Board of Directors.

Agenda Item 4 – Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2024. {ACTION} Mr. Martinez moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 6, 2024, as presented. Mr. Hales seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program. Mr. Brown reported that, at this time, no substantive bills impacting horse racing are circulating at the Capitol, thereby resulting in a wait and watch approach. Mr. Brown and Mr. Boyles have been meeting with legislative members, as well as Secretary Ross, to inform them of CARF's plans for this fall and the opportunities to keep racing alive in northern California.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Calypso Challenge. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he has received a draft agreement from United Tote to provide tote services for Calypso Challenge. Legal counsel is reviewing the agreement and Mr. Swartzlander anticipates an Aug. 1 launch date, including ADW wagering in dedicated lounges located within the satellite network facilities. A broad synopsis of the agreement is that United Tote will provide and install all hardware at no upfront cost and will receive a fixed monthly fee once the program is up and running.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Northern California Racing. No additional report.

Agenda Item 8 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Fair Racing Calendar and Live Racing Operations. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he and Mr. Doutrich are working on the 2024 summer fair purse schedule and racing details for the Thoroughbred Owners of California (TOC) horsemen's agreement. Mr. Swartzlander and Mr. Doutrich are travelling to southern California next week to meet with Bill Nader in person and visit the southern CARF-member satellites.

Mr. Swartzlander stated that with the change in leadership at the Big Fresno Fair, he recommends the CARF Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee take action to ratify the annual "Combined Fair Horse Racing Meeting Agreement" required by the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB). This agreement was formally adopted in 2017 and continues to provide the mechanism for the combined fair purse account and carryover pools. A copy of the 2023 agreement was presented as a handout.

{ACTION} Mr. Martinez moved to ratify the Combined Fair Horse Racing Meeting Agreement, as presented, for 2024. Ms. Violini seconded, unanimously approved.

Mr. Hoban clarified that the agreement will be modified to include the additional dates for the Humboldt County Fair and the Big Fresno Fair to bridge the September gap in racing. An updated calendar with those proposed dates is included in the meeting packet.

Agenda Item 9 – Financials. Mr. Hoban reported that pre-audit financials are included in the meeting packet and Ms. Gibbons is available to answer question. Ms. Gibbons reported that the financials are updated through January and that the 2023 CARF audit will be conducted in May. No questions.

Agenda Item 10 – Executive Director’s Report. Mr. Swartzlander reported that he had a successful aortic valve replacement surgery in February with little down time.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Haviland