

CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Wednesday, October 9, 2024

MINUTES

A concurrent meeting of the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) Board of Directors and Live Racing Committee was held at 11:30 A.M., Wednesday, October 9, 2024. The meeting was held via teleconference originating from the Big Fresno Fair, 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702.

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: Jerome Hoban and Tom Martinez.

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Raechelle Gibbons, Ann Grottveit, Cody Boyles, Matt Cranford and Stephanie Wedge.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: Mr. Swartzlander added that the board would be meeting in November and the live racing committee planning to meet within the next week.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. No public comment.

Agenda Item 3 – Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Mr. Hoban reported that the CARF Board heard updates and legal advice from counsel; no action taken.

Agenda Item 4 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Legislative Program. Mr. Boyles update the board that the legislature was in a “Special Session” due to gasoline price spikes and related gas bills. November 5th is the upcoming election and ballots have been mailed and disbursed within the state.

Mr. Swartzlander added that there is a movement for a 2026 sports gaming and fantasy sports initiatives but Mr. Boyles countered that several similar initiatives have failed by large margins without the support of Indian tribes.

Agenda Item 5 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on CARF Employee Policy & Procedures Manual and CalPers Resolution. Ms. Grottveit reported that the CARF Employee

Policy & Procedures Manual and CalPers Resolutions received a language clean-up and update. The largest changes were made to the qualifications for independent contractors and for detailing the differentiation between GSR and CARF employees. During the GSR meet, both CARF and Alameda County Fairgrounds “ACF” will be considered dual-employers. Ms. Grottveit assured the board that both CARF and ACF staff meet weekly to make this transition as smooth as possible. **{ACTION}** Mr. Hales moved to approve the CalPers Resolution as presented by Ms. Grottveit. Mr. Castillo seconded, unanimously approved.

{ACTION} Ms. Stoehr moved to approve the changes to the CARF Employee Policy & Procedures Manual as presented. Mr. Martinez seconded, unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 6 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on 2025 Golden State Racing Application. Mr. Swartzlander updated the board that the 2025 Golden State Race “GSR” meet was a “go” with an estimated 700 horses applying for stabling at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Mr. Hoban thanked CARF staff and legal for their dedication during the transition from live racing to the new winter GSR meet.

Agenda Item 7 – Report, Discussion and Action, if any, on Summer Fair Racing Operations. Mr. Swartzlander reported that overall, the summer fairs have seen support from the horsemen, with the California State Fair experienced some hiccups. Since then, Mr. Swartzlander has felt that the horsemen have stepped up when encouraged and that increases have been seen in field size. Mr. Swartzlander is optimistic for the final numbers from the five-week meet at the Big Fresno Fair.

Agenda Item 8 – Financials. Ms. Gibbons presented the financials to the board. No questions.

Agenda Item 9 – Executive Director’s Report. None.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Gomes