

**CALIFORNIA AUTHORITY OF RACING FAIRS
Board of Directors & Live Racing Committee
Concurrent Meeting
Monday, December 16, 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., Monday, December 16, 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, Jerome Hoban, Dan Jacobs, Tom Keaney, Tom Martinez, Dana Stoehr and Kelly Violini.

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

Staff and Guests participating via conference call: Larry Swartzlander, Tom Doutrich, Heather Haviland, Juliana Gomes, Ann Grottveit, Louie Brown, Cody Boyles, Michael Flores, Mike Francesconi, Angel Moore, Tiffany Loushin, Frank Imhof, Matt Cranford, Greg Gonsalves, Greg Gomes, Andy Titus, Matt Daly, Becky Bartling, Stacey Lapham, Gary Fenton, Bill Nader, Nate Newby, Aidan Butler, Josh Rubenstein, Justin Oldfield, George Schmitt, Gloria Hayley, Jamey Thomas, Rob Smolich, Marielena Trujillo, Bill Vassar, Lisa Wilkerson Brandi Gragg, Ray Paulick, Dan Ross, Mark Ratzky, Allison Wagaman, Jennifer Nickell, Cindy Miller and the following numbers: 619-831-9908, 650-222-8152.

Agenda Item 1 – Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting: To Be Determined.

Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment. Mr. Butler reported that Stronach Group wanted to incorporate sustaining a year-long commitment to Northern California stabling and facilitating a program that would complement racing in Southern California.

Mr. Schmitt spoke in regards to the Golden State Racing meet and had presented an informal offer of \$2,000,000 from both himself and John Harris. Mr. Schmitt encouraged stakeholders to continue with racing in Northern California and hoped his and Mr. Harris' financial offer and political assistance would be considered.

Mr. Nader of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, reminded the public of the decline of handle, purses and horse population due to the closure of Golden Gate Fields.

Ms. Estrada and Mr. Gonsalves, representatives of the Big Fresno Fair, spoke in high regards of racing and its effect on their community and fair. Mr. Gonsalves reminded the board to please consider the fairs that rely heavily on a racing product when they make future decisions.

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 2025 Golden State Racing Application. {ACTION} Ms. Stoehr moved to withdraw the 2025 Golden State Racing License from CHRB consideration. Mr. Keaney seconded, unanimously approved. The following public discussions were held after the vote.

Andy Titus, representing the Humboldt County Fairgrounds, and Jamey Thomas, Northern California Horse Trainer, stressed to the board the importance of racing to local economies and livelihoods and requested that all possible avenues be looked into.

Ms. Stoehr added that board's decision is not easily made and follows the declining industry trend of racing.

Respectfully submitted,
Juliana Gomes