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Thoroughbred Breeders' Fund Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday December 5th, 2024 – 3:00 p.m. CST
Via Microsoft Teams Meeting and Paddock Garden Room

MINUTES

Call to Order:

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Richard Bremer called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. CST

Roll Call:

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

Present – Amber Carlisle, Richard Bremer, Dave Dayon, Claudia Goebel, Lisa Duoos

Other participants – Penny Nelson (Deputy Director, Minnesota Racing Commission), Nicole Boentgen (Animal Health Specialist, Breeders' Fund and Safety Coordinator, Minnesota Racing Commission), Kyle Gustafson (Executive Director, Minnesota Racing Commission)

Approval of Minutes:

Agenda Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Dave Dayon motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and requested we discuss item 7 again from the previous meeting during open discussion. Richard Bremer and Claudia Goebel seconded. Motion approved.

New Business – Informational Items

Agenda Item 4 – Minnesota Racing Commission Report

Nicole Boentgen noted that the Thoroughbred Breeders and Stallion Awards are posted. Any errors should be reported prior to December 16th so the payments can be requested to go out starting on December 17th. Dave mentioned the idea of discontinuing the Stallion Awards in the next couple years as the stallion population in MN has declined to very low numbers. It was generally agreed that a tapering down payment system may work best to phase out the program. Nicole Boentgen mentioned the QH stallion population is in the same state, so it may make sense to phase out both programs. This will be added for further discussion to the Q1 2025 agenda.

Agenda Item 5 – Canterbury Report

Amber Carlisle provided an update on the projected card room revenue. She advised that the revenue is tracking downward. She also noted that the local casinos recently added several games that Canterbury Park also provides, and they are monitoring this closely to see how much this impacts their numbers. Overall, the purses for the 2025 season are expected to decrease based on the current revenue trends.

Agenda Item 7-Open Discussion

Dave Dayon requested revisiting the discussion around MN Statute 240.18. Currently, there is 20% going to several other funds, most notably to equine grants and research. Kyle advised that we do not tackle that issue this year and make a request for the change in 2026 as it is not a

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budget year and would be more well received. Kyle stated we could put it as a clean up bill for the statute as this one has been in place for a long time with minimal use. Amber advised that we should meet with Dr. Hovda too additionally to ensure this change is in our best interest to make. Nicole Boentgen advised this will also impact the QH rules, so we may want to confirm they are ok with this change as well. Nicole also advised that the Standardbred statute may also require review to align the breeds so we also may want to check in with them on that.

Richard Bremer inquired to Amber about the potential for a Thoroughbred sale to occur at Canterbury Park again in 2025. Amber had not heard anything definitive yet but would check with John Groen to see if that was a possibility.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned on Thursday, December 5th, 2024, at 4:06 p.m. CST.