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Minutes
Oregon Racing Commission
August 22, 2024

Meeting Detail

The Oregon Racing Commission (ORC) met at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, August 22nd, 2024, remotely via Microsoft Teams videoconference.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice Chair Berry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and Karen Parkman conducted roll call.

In Attendance

Commissioners: Quinn Berry, Scott Beckstead, and Diego Conde.

Staff: Connie Winn, Executive Director; Karen Parkman, Program and Administrative Coordinator; Kelly Routt, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)

Excused

Chair Margaret Doherty and Commissioner Lindsay Fowler

Approvals:

Meeting Agenda

Action: Approval of the revised August meeting agenda.

Moved by: Commissioner Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Beckstead

Vote: Commissioners Berry, Conde, and Beckstead voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0).

Meeting Minutes

Action: Approval of the June meeting minutes.

Moved by: Commissioner Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Beckstead

Vote: Commissioners Berry, Conde, and Beckstead voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0).

OLD BUSINESS:

Executive Director's report

Director Winn read the ORC legislative findings and mission statement. She reported that the Crooked River Roundup (CRRU) and Tillamook County Fair (TCF) race meets have been completed since the last meeting. There were improvements made to the backside at CRRU and an increased handle. There was one accident resulting in a jockey and horse injury. TCF was also successful, with no injuries and record-breaking handles for the track each day. Representatives from all four fair meets will be presenting their official reports at the September meeting.

Director Winn reported that Grants Pass Downs is tentatively scheduled for an inspection by Racing Surfaces Testing Laboratory in Kentucky in April, which inspects all HISA tracks.

Director Winn reported she recently attended the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) and the Racing and Gambling Conference. She was also able to observe the stewards at Saratoga. She will have several agenda items for the next Medication and Safety committee meeting as a result. She shared key takeaways from each conference including Quarter Horse toe grab model rule, discussion on request from Louisiana, discussion on Racing Certificate Program, HISA discussion on what is being seen in different states, discussion on better confidence, discussion on health of the industry and increased racing in some states, and a discussion on Totalizer companies and impacts of update delays on wagering.

Director Winn congratulated Vice Chair Berry on his new son, born August 6th.

Director Winn reported that Commissioner Conde has submitted his formal resignation to the ORC due to scheduling conflicts and thanked him for his service and commitment to the industry. This will be his final meeting as a commissioner for the ORC. She encouraged industry partners and staff to express their appreciation for his hard work during the public comment period.

Lastly, Director Winn reminded that the September meeting will be held in-person in Grants Pass, and notified the commissioners that Administrative Specialist, Maleah Thom, would be contacting them to arrange travel and lodging.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comments from Commissioner Conde

Commissioner Conde announced that while he is stepping away from the ORC due to other engagements, this is not the end of his involvement in racing in Oregon. He has learned a lot over the years, with many highs and lows. He stated that the ORC has been a family, and like a family you win together and lose together, and both circumstances taught him a lot. He thanked previous ORC director Jack McGrail and current director Connie Winn for all they have done and are doing.

Commissioner Conde stated that he will be available again in the future to help support the industry that he loves.

Crooked River Round-Up (CRRU) Race Meet (Prineville) – Commissioner Berry

Vice Chair Berry congratulated the CRRU on a successful meet with full stands and magnificent horses. He reported that he was impressed with the work of the staff and volunteers involved and thanked Doug Smith and Connie Winn for their leadership. He also thanked his friend Dr. Severin Knudsen DVM for stepping in on short notice to work as the attending veterinarian for the meet. He reported he was moved by the recognition of late jockey, Edwardo Sosa, and the ceremony honoring his life. Vice Chair Berry ended his report by asking all meeting attendees to take a moment of silence in honor of all the athletes whose hearts are poured into horse racing.

Discussion on possible changes to the Medication and Safety Charter.

Director Winn reported that there has been an expressed interest from some of the commissioners to open the Medication and Safety commission to all commissioners. Commissioner Berry commented that he is okay with that idea, but as the chair of that committee he does have concerns about timeliness and organization of topics. Commissioner Conde commented that he thinks it is a great idea, if the meetings can be kept succinct. Director Winn asked AAG, Kelly Routt if the meetings would be considered additional Commission meetings if all commissioners are present. Kelly Routt responded that it would still be a sub-committee meeting, it just happens all commissioners are in attendance. The motion would be to allow all commissioners to be on the committee. If scheduled after a Commission Meeting, that meeting would still be adjourned and the Medication and Safety Committee meeting called to order as its own meeting, or it could take place at a completely different time. Director Winn asked if all voting had to take place during the main commission meeting if all 5 commissioners are present in the committee meeting, and if they could vote on recommendations to bring forward to the regular commission meeting. AAG Kelly Routt responded she would have to investigate voting on recommendations, but all official voting would need to be restricted to official Commission Meetings. Commissioner Berry clarified that the idea is to expand the membership of the committee to the full commission due to the importance of the subject, so they are part of the initial conversations and not just receiving reports after the fact.

Action: Approval to open the Medication and Safety Committee to all ORC commissioners.

Moved by: Commissioner Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Beckstead

Commissioner Beckstead asked if the committee would be abolished and if Medication and Safety could be its own section on the regular Commission Meeting agenda. Ms. Routt responded that some boards may handle topics that way, so it is procedural. Vice Chair Berry added that it would add significant time to the regular meetings. Director Winn

suggested waiting to vote, if that was the decision, to discuss with the absent commissioners. Karen Parkman added that all voted on items must be noticed to the public, so if anything came up in those discussions, they would still have to wait for a later meeting to vote. Director Winn stated that if the committee is abolished then she will put that on the September agenda, or it can stay as it is and voted on today. Vice Chair Berry stated he would like to hear from the industry partners, because topics could be trimmed down and placed in the regular meeting for efficiency, but an independent meeting is nice for long, open conversations. Director Winn asked for industry opinions. Lynelle Smith with the Oregon Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (OTOBA) expressed concerns about stakeholder inclusion as committee members, as during the regular meetings public attendees are restricted to the public comment part of the meeting, so their thoughts and opinions may not be voiced until after important actions are already taken. She asked how information gathering would occur to include everyone in the conversation. Vice Chair Berry stated that since all voting would take place at the meeting following the initial discussions, there would still be time for public comment. However, he recognized there are already 6-8 official members of that committee and adding more will add a lot of time. Director Winn suggested revisiting this during the September Medication and Safety meeting for further discussion.

Commissioner Conde withdrew the motion. He cautioned against any topic or headline stating or could be read as the ORC abolishes the Medication and Safety Committee. That public perception needs to be considered. Vice Chair Berry strongly agreed, adding that safety is so important that this is an increased focus on safety, not a diminishment in any way.

Discussion and possible adoption of the following amended rules:

Director Winn reported that both rules have been discussed and approved for rule making by the Commission. Neither has received public comment, and both need motions to adopt.

A. 462-220-0010 (3) – Defines affiliate.

An affiliate is a company that works under another company and uses their equipment.

B. 462-120-0010 (2) – Defines who must be licensed.

Anyone with account holder information must have an Oregon license.

Action: Approval to adopt the amendments of 462-220-0010 (3) and 462-120-0010(2).

Moved by: Commissioner Beckstead

Seconded: Commissioner Conde

Vote: Commissioners Berry, Conde, and Beckstead voted AYE, and the motion was carried unanimously (3:0).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CONTESTED CASES:

None.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

The next commission meeting is scheduled to be held in-person on September 21, 2024, at 1:30 P.M. at the Josephine County Fairgrounds, located at 1451 Fairgrounds Rd, Grants Pass, OR 97527, in the Arts & Crafts Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Action: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Commissioner Conde

Seconded: Commissioner Beckstead