

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE CALIFORNIA HARNESS HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 25, 2017**

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Proceedings of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the California Harness Horsemen's Association (CHHA) held on February 25, 2017.

PRESENT:

David Neumeister  
David Siegel  
Bob Johnson  
Luke Plano  
Steve Wiseman  
Robin Clements  
Richard Thomas  
Billie Schwartz (via telephone)  
Wayne Knittel (via telephone)

As a result, all nine members of the board of directors were present. Also in attendance was Jimmy Perez, Executive Director of CHHA, and Chris Schick and Ben Kenney from Watch and Wager.

Mr. Neumeister, presided. Minutes from the previous meeting had already been approved via an email vote so there were no minutes to approve.

Mr. Schick outline issues related to the cancellation of races on Friday, February 17. After discussion, it was informally resolved that the "drivers safety committee" as previously formed (not a CHHA committee) would communicate directly with Watch and Wager management regarding track safety conditions

Mr. Schick outlined the 2017/2018 proposed race schedule which would be similar in terms of race days to the 2016/2017 schedule with a couple of exceptions. Opening night would be on October 28 (Saturday). Racing would immediately move to a 2-night per week schedule the following weekend. The last day of racing before Christmas would be Saturday December 16 and would resume on Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>, and then pick up the Friday-Saturday schedule on December 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. So there would be a 10-day break that included Christmas.

Mr. Kenney outline the overall financial position of the purse pool and forecasted a 2017 fall starting negative balance of roughly \$200k-\$250k greater than was faced a year prior. This differential is primarily due to racing for (10%) greater purses than much of the last year, and an incremental \$100,000 more paid out through the horse incentive program. The Board agreed that it would take a critical look at the 2017-2018 horse incentive program with the goal of decreasing the overall outlay.

Ms. Schwartz raised the issue of board members married and the issue was briefly extended to family relationships between board members. Since the by-laws do not speak to this subject, the suggestion was made to Ms. Schwartz to craft language and propose a by-law amendment at a subsequent meeting.

The final issue discussed was the operation of the race office. Mr. Siegel outlined in broad terms issues that have been raised to the Board including consistency, communication and professionalism. Mr. Schick took note of these concerns. The board discussed the matter further after Mr. Schick and Mr. Kenney had to depart and decided that Mr. Neumeister and Mr. Perez would engage in further discussion with Mr. Schick, Mr. Kenney and the racing secretary to lay out specific items for further discussion.

There being no further business to come before the CHHA board, the meeting was, upon motion, duly seconded and approved, adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*David Siegel*

Secretary of the meeting