

MINUTES  
OQHRA Board of Directors Meeting  
January 20, 2009 at Noon  
Heritage Place Club, OKC

Board members present: Phillip Stewart, Jeff Tebow, Lake Newcomb, Andy Golden, Butch Wise, Stacy Charette Hill, Matt Witman, Mark Sellers, Dr Bill Bullock, Bobby Webb, Wendy Ingersoll Keener, Randy Hill, Dee Raper, Clayton Keys, Eddie Willis, and Ed Melzer. New board members in attendance: Sammy Hester, and Connie Barnes. Guests included Skip Stucks, Mr. Kendricks, Duane Laymon, Joe Mills, George Cobb, Roy Brooks and Larry Payne. Staff was Debbie Schauf, executive director.

MOTION: Dr Bullock (Matt Witman) moved to approve minutes of November meeting.  
Motion carried.

Tommy Thomas reported that he and Haley were reading bills (over 2500 introduced this session) and had already discovered a bill introduced by Senator Sparks that would allow FMT to move races to track in adjacent county – Sparks indicated the request was from the lobbyist for the Cherokee Nation. OQHRA cannot support the bill as it will jeopardize the tribal purse funds. Butch asked if we planned to have the day at the track again and Tommy said he hoped we would again offer the opportunity but pointed out that there are some significant changes in lobbyist expenditures that will impact whatever we do for the elected officials. Discussed hosting reception for all legislators at a location other than the racetrack.

Discussed Smicklas request for consideration of legislation dedicating funding for retired or career ending racehorses with OKB money and need for agency to have more money to administer the OKB program.

MOTION: Clayton Keys (Matt Witman) moved not to support legislation to use OKB money for funding to support retired racehorses as that is not an appropriate use of the OKB funds.  
Motion Carried

MOTION: Dr Bullock (Matt Witman) moved to respond to OHRC and Smicklas that we would be willing to further discuss need for increased funding of administrative services of OKB registry but not to support a specific percentage of increase at this time. Motion carried.

The board then discussed the concerns with the safety and integrity of the purse funds that are to be escrowed by the racetracks.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Dee Raper) moved to support drafting and introduction of legislation that will protect statutorily dedicated funds from gaming and pari-mutuel wagering on horse races for horsemen's purses by requiring tracks to deposit all statutorily dedicated funds for purses, taxes, local governments, etc. directly into "escrow" accounts that are not co-mingled with other racetrack funds. Motion carried.

Deb presented the bid from Hollingsworth for the 2008 fiscal year audit.

MOTION: Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to accept bid and authorize the 2008 audit. Motion carried.

MOTION: Bobby Webb (Ed Melzer) moved to approve the request from the Oklahoma Racetrack Chaplaincy for 2009 funding of racetrack chaplaincy programs at all Oklahoma tracks. Motion carried.

MOTION: Randy Hill (Matt Witman) moved to adopt a resolution authorizing the executive director and the executive committee to open new accounts at FDIC approved financial institutions as may be required to provide adequate protection for all funds on deposit in OQHRA administered accounts. Motion Carried.

The board discussed the proposal to increase losing mount fees for riders of Quarter Horses, Paints, and Appaloosas at meets in 2009. He explained that there is a problem with the concept of doing an increase by special agreement with the riders because of an objection by Remington Park, Will Rogers Downs, and the Oklahoma HBPA leaders.

The board members expressed their desire to provide riders a living wage at levels based on the purse levels at each OK track, to improve the quality of the rider colony in OK, and explained that initially OQHRA believed it had the authority to make the agreement but now the commission will consider that issue at its January meeting.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Matt Witman) moved that OQHRA retain Bocoek if necessary to pursue the issue of increasing losing mount fees if the commission does not allow the special agreement at the January meeting. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to support rulemaking by the commission to direct the distribution of OKB money earned during and between live meets based on some relationship to the live racing program at each racetrack. Motion carried.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Matt Witman) moved to support the Chapter 75 revisions to the Oklahoma bred rules as drafted based on meetings of the OKB task force meetings over the past three months. Motion Carried.

MOTION: Dee Raper (Matt Witman) moved to support the double breed registry rules proposed by the OKB task force. Motion Carried.

The board approved having Deb attend the AQHA affiliate workshop in February if it is possible to submit a late registration.

The board was advised of two stallions that had advertised Black Gold Program eligibility but had not completed the enrollment. Randy Hill volunteered to contact the stallion manager and encourage them to get the process completed.

Deb reported on a discussion with Choctaw tribal members about the future of Blue Ribbon Downs and Jeff suggested Debbie try to establish a meeting for Phillip and Dee and Deb to meet with tribal members if possible.

MOTION: Dee Raper (Matt Witman) moved to approve annual meeting and 2008 awards presentations to be held in late February at Heritage Place. Motion carried.

Butch discussed need to make more people aware that the OK futurity is not an OKB race. Jeff discussed need to improve communications through use of monthly newsletters. Deb asked about interest in a crematorium for horses in OKC area but the board felt there was little demand for services at the projected cost levels. The board heard preliminary results of stallion service auction, reviewed the current number of race nominations, and was updated on status of discussions with TRAO to assume administration of purse account funds. Phillip reported on cancellation of meeting to discuss the hosting of the 2010 Challenge races.

The board considered the results of the 2008 director's election submitted by Les Vaughn, CPA.

MOTION: Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to accept and adopt the results of the 2008 election. Motion carried.

Officers Elections were held:

MOTION: Jeff Tebow(Matt Witman) moved to elect Phillip for 2<sup>nd</sup> term as President.  
Clayton Keys (Bobby Web) moved to close nominations. Discussion by Butch Wise.  
Motions Carried.

MOTION: Randy Hill (Butch Wise) moved to re-elect Jeff Tebow as Vice President.  
Bobby Webb (Clayton Keys) moved to close nominations. Discussion by Butch Wise.  
Motions carried.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Matt Witman) moved to re-elect Lake Newcomb as Secretary.  
Jeff Tebow (Matt Witman) moved to close nominations. Motions carried.

MOTION: Clayton Keys (Matt Witman) moved to re-elect Andy Golden as treasurer.  
Lake Newcomb (Matt Witman) moved to close nominations. Motions carried.

Under other business, the board members discussed the sale of the QH, Paint, and Appaloosa signals to Remington Park Disseminating Company and it was reported that RPDC nor the OK HBPA had made any payment to OQHRA for signals distributed in 2008.

MOTION: Butch Wise (Matt Witman) moved not to approve sale of Quarter Horse, Paint, or Appaloosa signals to RPDC or any other disseminating company for less than 6% to tribal locations in Oklahoma, and for less than 15% to tribal locations in Oklahoma that are within a radius of 30 miles from an Oklahoma racetrack. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned