

Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission
Minutes
August 27, 2014
NRPR Offices

DRAFT

In attendance:

Commissioner

Present:

- Ramon Bazurto
- Bill Matthews
- Forrest Metz
- Geronimo Ramirez, Jr.

Not Present:

- John K. Goodman

County Liaison

- Tom Moulton

I. Welcoming and Introductions

In lieu of a Chair and Vice-Chair due to the reappointment of Commissioners, Tom Moulton called the meeting of the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission (PCFHRC) to order at 4:05 pm in the NRPR conference room in lieu of the Chair until such time the Chair and Vice-Chair were elected at the meeting. The guest sheet is attached and included Jaye Wells from Rillito Racing Inc., Patty Shirley from the PCHRA and JoAnn di Filippo of SAHRA.

II. Review of Commissioner Terms

Tom Moulton, County liaison to the PCFHRC, confirmed that all Commissioners remain full voting Commissioners until such time the Supervisor of the District they represent re-appoints them. Each Commissioner can serve two consecutive two-year terms. Even though Geronimo Ramirez and John Goodman's terms have expired, until they are re-appointed or replaced, they remain voting members of the commission. Both Supervisors are aware of the expired terms.

III. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair of Commission

An election of the new officers was held with Tom Moulton presiding. Forrest Metz was elected Chair. After two election cycles, a Vice-Chair was not elected due to a tie. The Commissioners decided to give the election of the Vice-Chair another try at the next meeting.

Following the election Chair Metz began to run the Commission meeting.

IV. Overview of the 2014 Racing Season by PCHRA

Patty Shirley, Vice-President of the PCHRA, gave a report of the 2014 racing season. She reported the financials would be ready in September and as soon as they are finalized a copy would be submitted to Pima County for distribution to the Commissioner.

A brief overview of the season followed:

- Crowds were good; rain did cancel some racing days
- Not enough horses last year to fill every racing slot; however every racing day did take place. Number one challenge for Rillito racing to continue is to find more race horses.

V. Presentation of Upcoming Racing Season by Rillito Racing Inc.

Jaye Wells, President of Rillito Racing, Inc. gave an overview of the racing management team featuring the new racing manager, Mike Weiss and the upcoming racing season at Rillito Racetrack. Mr. Wells indicated that the organization has applied for the proper racing permits from the Arizona Department of Racing (ADOR) with all administrative paperwork turned into ADOR's office. The permit applications are currently undergoing the customary background checks on all of the Rillito Racing principle management team. Additionally several grants had been received to ensure enough capital dollars to open the racing season as well as marketing the race meet.

Racing days requested by Rillito Racing begins on February 7 and ends on April 12 for a total of 20 live race days. The schedule will include 3 Friday racing days.

Jaye and Walter shared some of the Rillito improvements scheduled at the racetrack including the addition of 72 new horse stalls. The old block barns will remain intact on the west side and usable during the 2015 race meet. Following the 2015 season, the block barns are scheduled for demolition. An abandoned block barn will be demolished sometime in the early fall.

VI. Overview and Discussion of the Role of the Pima County Fair Horse Racing Commission and Possible Action to Amend the Resolution 1987 - 224

Tom Moulton reviewed resolution 1987-224 with the Commission and recommended that the Commissioners review the document for possible changes and/or additions to the resolution. Any recommended changes will be sent to the Board of Supervisors for possible review and adoption.

Commissioner Metz announced that he liked to get back to meeting monthly again in order to support horseracing in Pima County and give Rillito Racing the advice and support as needed. He asked all of the Commissioners to review and bring any proposed changes to the next meeting for consideration by the full Commission.

VII. Discussion and possible action on the State of Arizona Alcohol License of Rillito Racetrack

Patty Shirley gave an overview of the current status of the Liquor License with the State of Arizona. Pat White on behalf of the PCFHRC filed a renewal application with the State Liquor Department two weeks ago with Commissioner Matthews listed. It normally takes about 4-8 weeks for all of the background checks to be performed.

Commission Matthews indicated that he did not want his name on the application. Since it has already been filed, to take Matthews off the application could delay the process for another 4 – 8 weeks. Once the application is approved, Commission Matthews can be taken off the list and Chair Metz could be added.

A discussion took place about any liability that may exist to the Commissions. The Commission entertained a motion from an idea presented by Jaye Wells, for the Rillito Foundation to buy the liquor license once it is issued. A motion was presented by Commissioner Ramirez and seconded by Commissioner Bazurto to “Sell the Liquor License to Rillito Foundation for \$1.00 and at the end of the initial term of Rillito Racing sell back the License to the PCFHRC.” A friendly amendment was offered by Chair Metz and accepted to read: “Sell the Liquor License to Rillito Foundation for \$1.00 and at the end of the initial term of Rillito Racing sell back the License to the PCFHRC **subject to Pima County Government concurring.**”

VIII. Call to the Public

Several folks talked and thanked the PCHRA for their past efforts in keeping racing alive and thanked Pima County for working with Jaye to ensure a racing season for 2015. Jaye asked for support from the PCHRA for the upcoming racing season.

Commission Metz thanked all for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.