

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
July 8, 2021
Equine Sales Company
Opelousas, LA
1:30 P.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Carrol Castille
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Tom Early
Danny Guidry
Warren Harang III
Michele LaVoice
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez
David Tillson

Directors Absent:

Brett Brinkman
Keith Hernandez
Jim Montgomery

Others Present

Therese Arroyo
Jena Baham
Harry Benoit
Alex Bonin
John Duvieilh
Roger Heitzmann
Robert Kennedy
Linda McLellan
Alan Peltier
Bill Reed
Rodrigo Rivera
Greg Romig

Warren Harang III called the meeting to order. Warren asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll of members of the Board of the last two years. A quorum was present with Brett Brinkman, Keith Hernandez, Jim Montgomery, and Michele Rodriguez being absent. The meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Warren asked the Board what was their pleasure to the minutes of the December 12, 2021 meeting. Carrol Castille made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Tom Early seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren introduced Mr. Greg Romig. Greg Romig, of LaPorte, APAC, presented the results of the financial statement audit of the LTBA for the period ended December 31, 2020. Greg praised the LTBA on the diligence and patience required to complete the audit field work this year, with the ongoing pandemic, and to do so in a timely manner with no hesitation. Greg stated LaPorte audited the statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets - on a modified cash basis, and changes in net assets – modified cash basis, for the year ended, and related notes to the financial statements. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified-cash basis of accounting. The auditor's responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on their audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Audit Standards, as issued by the Comptroller of the United States. Mr. Romig states, in the audit report that in LaPorte's opinion the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities,

and net assets of the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association as of December 31, 2020 and its related revenues and expenses and changes in net assets for the year ended, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note one of the audit (modified cash basis). Greg explained a draft of the 990, the information return LTBA is required to file annually with the IRS was not yet complete, and expressed that Therese could review that with the Board when completed. Greg Romig finished his presentation of the audit, with no findings, and opened the floor for questions. After a brief discussion about solidity of the Association during this Corona Pandemic, and the PPP loan forgiveness Greg said he believed that the Association was in good financial position.

Mr. Romig then asked for the Board to approve the Audit Presentation. Tom made a motion to approve the Audit as presented. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion, which voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren asked that the guests with us introduce themselves.

Warren proceeded with the agenda asking if there were any changes to anyone's Conflict of Interest Policy. Hearing none he moved forward.

Roger informed the Board that the Fair Grounds moved their starting day back to the traditional Thanksgiving Day. With the change in dates, Louisiana Champions Day and the Louisiana Futurity will move back to their original dates.

Moving to the next item on the agenda Roger informed the board that with the monies we have available and with the monies being generated by the slots at Louisiana Downs, Louisiana Cup Day will be scheduled and run. It would be scheduled at either the second or third week in August. Louisiana Downs will set the date.

Warren asked about the sale of Louisiana Downs. No solid information could be given at this time.

Roger informed the board that our attorney, Alex Bonin, said that as we were in a stay with the lawsuit that was brought to us, we could conduct business as usual, therefore we could move forward with the Horse of the Year proceedings. Roger and staff counted the horse of the year ballots and the results are in your packet. It is now the responsibility of the Board, if they choose to move forward with this, to elect the overall Horse of the Year. He asked they circle one from the category winners and to turn them in. Alex Bonin agreed with what was presented.

While the voting was in process Charlotte asked if the awards banquet could be held the same time as the R.E.A.P benefit. She felt it help draw more persons to each event. Some discussion took place.

Alex made clear to the Board that this is Awards Ceremony, not the Annual Meeting. The by-laws of the organization and by Corporation Law, clearly states that the Annual Meeting is the voting of the membership on the election of board members. He asked that we should call it the Awards Ceremony.

Moving to the next item on the agenda, Roger presented a request from the Commissioner of Agriculture, Dr, Michael Strain, for three names from our association to be presented for one seat on the new Louisiana Equine Promotion and Research Advisory Board. David Tillson, Keith Hernandez, and Roger Heitzmann were chosen as the nominees.

Roger announced that the votes were tabulated and Grade 1 winner No Parole was chosen the overall Horse of the Year by the Board of Directors.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val had no report for this meeting

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom turned the floor over to Therese Arroyo for the presentation of the Financial Statement ending March 31, 2021 as well as any Budget adjustments needed. The board was asked if they all had received their financials packets in the mail. All acknowledged. Therese presented the financial statement explaining differences and how we were and are being affected by the Covid situation. Discussion took place. Following discussion, Therese asked that the Financials be approved. Tom Early made a motion that the Financials be accepted as presented. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Therese then asked that the budget adjustments be approved. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to accept the budget adjustments as presented. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Michele Rodriguez arrived for the meeting and was recognized.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake Delhomme introduced Harry Benoit, lobbyist for the L.T.B.A., to give an update on the happenings in Baton Rouge during this past session. Harry informed the Board on the new bills that passed and how they may affect us in the future. He answered a few questions from members of the Board.

Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle had no report for this meeting.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val had no report for this meeting.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake had no report for this meeting. It was noted that there is a new commissioner from New Orleans replacing Mr. Bob Wright.

Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

There was no report for this meeting

Membership and Nominating: David Tillson – Chairperson

Alex Bonin informed the board that this should be discussed in Executive Session.

Pac Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman

There is no report for this meeting.

Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom had no report for this meeting.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to enter Executive Session. Michelle LaVoice seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Jake Delhomme made a motion to return to regular session. This motion was seconded by Charlotte Clavier, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion that Jake Delhomme, Jay Adcock, Carrol Castille, and Michelle LaVoice continue to serve on the Board of Directors until a new election can be finalized. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on by a roll call vote made by the members of the board not up for re-election. The vote was unanimous.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to form three new committees By-Law, Membership, and Election with the inclusion of Jim Montgomery, and Michele Rodriguez. The committees will be established with the following members:

Election Committee:

Val Murrell
Tom Early
Keith Hernandez
Charlotte Clavier

Membership Committee:

Jake Delhomme
Jay Adcock
Michelle LaVoice
Brett Brinkman
Jim Montgomery

By-Law Committee:

David Tillson
Warren Harang
Carrol Castille
Danny Guidry
Michele Rodriguez

Carrol Castille seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The Board assigned Roger with task of scheduling our next Board meeting in or about the first or second week in August.

New Business:

Nothing to report

Old Business:

Nothing to report

Carrol Castille made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by David Tillson, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III