

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 11, 2017
Delta Downs Racetrack and Casino
Vinton, Louisiana
11:00 A.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Bobby Duhon
Tom Early
Nathan Granger
Warren J. Harang III
Michelle LaVoice
Neal McFadden
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent:

Others Present:

John Adams
Ross Brupbacher
Roger Heitzmann
Mike McHalfey
Linda McLellan
Steve Miller
Rita Osbourn
Kim Stover
Mike Whitler

Warren Harang III requested that Roger Heitzmann call the roll. All were present with the exception of Michele Rodriguez who called and informed the board she would be there shortly.

Warren asked Jake Delhomme to lead us in prayer.

Warren asked our guests to introduce themselves.

Warren asked for a motion on the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on December 9, 2016. Charlotte Clavier made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Bobby Duhon, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Roger presented a list of three changes that the Racing Office at the Fair Grounds requested be changed to the Louisiana Champions Day schedule. They would like to see these changes made to help with field size and the filling of the races. They have requested that the Louisiana Champions Day Classic be changed to a distance of 1mile1/16 on the dirt. The Louisiana Champions Day Ladies be moved from the dirt to the turf retaining the distance of 1mile1/16. In addition, they suggested making the Louisiana Champions Day Handicap Stakes be changed to horses which have started for a claiming price of \$7500 in the year of the running of the race, as well as moving it to a distance of 1mile on the turf. After discussion Tom Early made a motion that we accept the changes presented to the board in regards to the Louisiana Champions Day Ladies and the Louisiana Champions Day Handicap Stakes. However, the Louisiana Champions Day Classic will remain 1mile and 1/8 on the dirt. Nathan Granger seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Warren moved to the next item on the agenda, our Annual Meeting. Discussion on the time, place, and presentation carried on briefly. After discussion, Charlotte made a motion that we schedule the Annual Meeting on June 10, 2017 at Evangeline Downs in the Mojo's Area. All awards will be given away at the ceremony with the meeting ending with the running of the Belmont. This motion was seconded by Bobby Duhon, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: Val Murrell – Chairman

No report for this meeting.

Finance & Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom requested that his report be moved to the end of the meeting.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Jake informed everyone that our sponsored luncheon with the Acadiana Caucus is set for April 25, 2017 at the State Capital. Harry Benoit reported to Jake that he has not seen any bill yet that would affect the association.

Grievance: Michele LaVoice – Chairperson

A complaint had been filed by a member of the Association which is currently being handled by the parties involved.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val informed the Board involving the HBPA discussions with the race tracks. He covered the equine herpes situation at the Fair Grounds. Discussion also took place concerning the turf course at Evangeline Downs, the barn situation at Evangeline Downs involving the HBPA, and the Louisiana Racing Commission. Bobby Duhon made a motion to accept the report as given. The motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice which was voted on and passed unanimously.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Mr. Mike McHalfey of the Louisiana Racing Commission was on hand and presented agenda items that the Racing Commission is looking into. He appreciated the invitation to attend and will do his best to keep the board informed.

Inspection: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett Brinkman stated that at this meeting we have to discuss the contract of inspector Mike Whitler. He asked that we do that in Executive Session. Roger also informed the Board of Mike finding a couple of mares who left early in December that was required to stay till the end of the year. Roger and Mike discussed it and fined the owners of the mares on the same scale the board has been using.

Michele Rodriguez arrived for the meeting.

Membership & Nominating: Charlotte Clavier – Chairperson

Roger will be providing Charlotte with a current membership list to begin the process of vetting it.

Pac: Michele Rodriguez – Chairperson

No report for this meeting

Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

Roger presented to the Board a revised Employee Manual. Vacation/ paid time off were adjusted to better fit the needs of the organization. Some typos were corrected, and the areas covering sick time were removed since we have changed to a Paid Time Off system (PTO). Nathan Granger made a motion to accept the changes. Charlotte Clavier seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

New Business: Roger informed the Board of the continued decline in slot revenues. Evangeline will have a stakes schedule that has been adjusted and the possibility of overnight races being cut.

It was questioned if we donated \$5000 to Delta Downs for advertising and promotion. Roger answered that we did and it looks as if it was well spent this year. The Board noted that the LTBA was not mentioned in the ads or promotions and they requested that Roger mention it to Chris Warren that we be mentioned next time. Roger noted to the board that our scholarships were mentioned quite often.

Roger informed the Board that the Stallion of the Year will be Half Ours due to progeny earnings; the leading Breeder of the Year is Irwin Olian, dba Tigertail Ranch.

Old Business: Roger was asked at the last Board meeting to come up with an idea to shave another \$500,000 off of the breeders award budget. It has been evident to the board that the purse structure in Louisiana favors the claimers who run at levels of the lower end. Proportionately the lower claimers run for much higher purses than the upper claimers and allowance horses. With that being the case we pay breeders awards on that same premise. In order to combat that problem Roger used the idea Brett Brinkman had suggested and placed a value on horses racing for claiming prices of \$10,000 or less. This value would be one and one-half times the claiming price of the horse. For example, a horse racing for a claiming price of \$5,000 would be awarded on a value of \$7,500, and the breeders awarded would be based on that figure. If this was practiced in 2015 it would have cut the budget approximately \$592,000. After seeing our final numbers it is not recommended that we do this immediately, but possibly look at this in the future if needed.

Discussion then took place about the rules that we had in the past and the rules of the Louisiana Quarter Horse breeders.

Date, Time and place of next Board of Directors Meeting: April, 11, 2017, 4:00pm at Prejeans Restaurant, Carencro. Louisiana

Before being excused for an Executive Session, Mr. Adams asked why the elimination of the Louisiana Stallion Stakes? The board explained it was cancelled due to lack of participation and the restrictions of the Louisiana funds we use.

Michele Rodriguez made a motion to enter executive session. This motion was seconded by Jim Montgomery, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to exit Executive Session. This motion was seconded by Michele Lavoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

After leaving Executive Session, Charlotte Clavier made a motion ratify the record reflecting the following which took place in Executive Session.

Finance and Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom asked if everyone had their financials, which were sent in their meeting packet, as well as the budget for 2017. Hearing that all had the information in hand, he then started to explain the finances and budget of the association. Charlotte made a motion to accept the budget for 2017. Bobby Duhon seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom requested someone to make a motion to approve the financials for year ending 2016. Michelle Rodriguez made the motion to accept the year end financials. Jay Adcock seconded the motion which was voted on and passed unanimously.

A point was made to look into the possibly of cutting Stallion Awards if needed. It was agreed that if we needed to make a cut, this might be the first place we look.

The contract of inspector Mike Whitler was approved by a unanimous vote.

Charlotte Clavier's motion to ratify the Financial and Audit report was seconded by Michele LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Bobby Duhon made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Jake Delhomme, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III