

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Special Board of Directors Meeting
October 29, 2019
Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino
Opelousas, La.
1:00 P.M.

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Carroll Castille
Charlotte Clavier
Jake Delhomme
Tom Early
Warren Harang III
Daniel Guidry
Michelle LaVoice
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez

Directors Absent

Neal McFadden

Others Present:

Alex Bonin
Roger Heitzmann III
Loretta Romero
David Tillson

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present and the meeting was ready to proceed with business.

Jake Delhomme led us in prayer.

Warren presented the By-Law changes that were agreed upon at the meeting following the retreat. He requested if all were agreed upon or is more work needed.

Danny Guidry asked how the meeting went with Chris Warren, Corey Veazey, and John Simon concerning changes we as the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association would like to see made at Delta Downs and Evangeline Downs in order to assist the association with attracting breeders to the state. Both Jake Delhomme and Brett Brinkman explained to the board the initial resistance and the true understanding the group held following the meeting. The perception and the feeling were different following the meeting for the groups working together.

Discussion took place about other ideas we can possibly come back to them with in the future. The feeling of the board was that we are happy that they are willing to work with us.

Warren requested that we begin with the rule changes beginning with the membership changes. He wanted to know if everyone was good with the changes.

Val Murrell voiced his concern with the changes. He was concerned with members who didn't own a mare or stallion having the right to vote in the election of the board. Jay Adcock offered his concern about the same, sharing that the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association does not allow any breeders who don't contribute to their organization an option to vote.

Discussion went back and forth about this concern, as well as the other types of membership.

A motion was made by Carrol Castille to change the membership rule to allow anyone who wishes to join the association with all the rights of a regular member without having to own breeding stock. Tom Early seconded this motion, which was presented to a roll call vote:

FOR:	AGAINIST:
Warren	Jay
Charlotte	Jake
Michele R.	Jim
Tom	Danny
Carrol	Val
	Michelle L.
	Brett

Much discussion took place during the vote but no changes were made to the initial motion.

Danny Guidry the made a motion to allow regular membership available to persons owning 25% in a mare or 1/50% in a resident stallion. Tom Early seconded the motion which was put to a roll call vote after discussion:

FOR:	AGAINIST:
Warren	
Jake	
Jay	
Charlotte	
Jim	
Danny	
Michelle R.	
Tom Early	
Val Murrell	
Michele LaVoice	
Carrol	
Brett	

Attorney Alex Bonin informed the board that they can't make this change as it was not presented this way with the 10 day notice. Discussion took place about the validity of the vote. Alex presented that everyone agreed on what we were to vote on today, but after futher thought those who voted for the change was against it today. He suggested that since the change will not go into affect till next year we put it off and vote at the next Board Meeting in December. All were in agreement.

Roger Heitzmann presented that Val also included in the beginning of the meeting that Honorary Lifetime members should be listed as regular members for life. The board agreed that this will be a change and that we should be able to vote on this at the December meeting. All members are in agreement.

Warren put forward the discussion on replacement of Board Members and who may be up this year. Roger informed the board on whose term ends this upcoming year.

Discussion then moved to the proposed rule changes in Part C of the By-Laws. Michelle LaVoice expressed concern that some wording was missing on and not clear on a specific rule and she thought it should be more clear that what it is.

Danny Guidry requested the floor to explain his thoughts on the rule change. He notified the board that he has strong feelings that the old Z rule should be returned. He believes it only helps the commercial breeder. He pointed out that we protect the little man and the resident stallion, but not the person who breeds to sell. He believes everyone should work to improve the quality and quantity of our mares. He put forth the question on how do we get new mares. Better race mares in the state retire here. Most of the mares we get are purchased in sales elsewhere, an older mare that is in foal to an out of state stallion. By forcing someone to breed to a lesser stallion causes the mare to depreciate immediately. If you allow them to breed out of state again the breed will improve. At some point the mare will breed to an in state stallion helping them as well. Danny said that participating in Louisiana is important to him as he is a resident of the state, but he doesn't believe that he should be forced to lose money because of it. Danny presented to the board that the breeders awards are not what he's after. He's more interested in the breeding of horses in Louisiana that he can sell. He suggested rules being adopted by other states and provinces, as they too are struggling to keep their numbers up. He also suggested rules that were not currently in use by others.

Discussion took place between the board members on Danny's suggestion as well as other perceived problems we face. This discussion continued on for some period of time.

Discussion about the future of racetracks in the state took place.

Discussion took place about the upcoming Governors Race and that the LTBA was not going to take a side in it. We would support the winner as Governor and begin talks with him and his staff.

The Board then returned to the discussion of the change of the By-Laws. After going back and forth as to what was in the new rules, and what is needed and wanted by members of the Board, no agreement could be reached at this meeting.

Alex informed the Board that when they are notified with the copies of the By-Laws to be discussed they need to address it and respond to both Roger and myself so that the changes can be made prior to the meeting.

Alex and Roger were instructed to have a completed version of the By-Laws to be presented at the next meeting, working with the changes from the Board.

Charlotte Clavier requested that we move to Executive Session. This was seconded by Val Murrell, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte made a motion to re-enter regular session. This motion was seconded by Tom Early, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

