

Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association
Board of Directors Meeting
February 4, 2022
Café Josephine
Sunset, LA
12:00 pm

Directors Present:

Jay Adcock
Brett Brinkman
Charlotte Clavier
Tom Early
Danny Guidry
Warren Harang
Keith Hernandez
Michelle LaVoice
Jim Montgomery
Val Murrell
Michele Rodriguez
David Tillson

Directors Absent:

Jake Delhomme

Others Present:

Alex Bonin
Lane Cortez
Bob Dawson
Eddie Delahoussaye
John Duvieilh
Cynthia Eyre
Paul Franks
Roger Heitzmann
Linda McLellan
Allen Peltier
Ray Sibille
Logan St Alber
Mike Whitler

Warren Harang called the meeting to order and asked Roger Heitzmann to call the roll. A quorum was present with Jake Delhomme being absent. The meeting was ready to proceed on with business.

Charlotte Clavier led us in prayer.

Warren Harang III requested the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on December 12, 2021. Val Murrell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Mr. Lane Cortez, a member of the Louisiana Racing Commission, is present today to discuss the proposed rule changes that are being worked on by the Commission. Lane started by saying that he was invited by Roger Heitzmann to speak specifically on the caps rule (purses) being proposed before the HISA caps rule comes in. With that being said HISA recently dropped that rule on purse caps but have been petitioned to put it back by several horse organizations, specifically California and Mid-Atlantic.

Lane stressed that if it's capped at a level below what we can accommodate with purse incentives for Louisiana Breds, our Louisiana Breds will not be seeing the monies that we have to give them through these incentives.

Lane explained that the horsemen understand how this cap will help horsemen, especially at the lower level. Brett Brinkman explained to the board how this will help the persons with the lower claimers as well as the higher claimers. He explained a better division of purses helps keep someone from stealing the purses at the lower level by gathering up many of the horses at a lower level or a level just above to dominate the higher percentage of purses. He also explained how this would help upcoming sales for the breeders.

Michele Rodriguez arrived for the meeting.

Lane then spoke on the adjustment of the bottom claiming prices and purses payouts on both winners and maidens and how it would work with the caps in place. The whole idea is to help the horsemen not hurt them.

He spoke on how the Racing Commission is working on trying to keep the number of race days while trying to eliminate as much as the overlapping as possible.

Warren brought the question of Louisiana Bred races for Accredited Louisiana Bred horses that are sired by Louisiana Stallions. Lane agreed with Warren that he believed this is doable; however, he understands it can't be added and also draw away from some Louisiana Bred races filling. He stated that this was a concern of the racing secretaries.

John Duvieilh suggested that we take some of the monies from video poker that hasn't been appointed yet to form a bonus purse for horses that have been sired by Louisiana Stallions who have won or placed in races. John suggested that a Purse Supplement Committee be appointed to oversee the distribution of purse supplements in the future. Warren appointed John to the Chair of that Committee. Michele Rodriguez and Charlotte Clavier also said that they would like to be on that committee.

Michele Rodrigue wanted everyone to know that she was against any capping of any purses at any level.

Roger requested to the board that we have a stance when it comes to the work being done by the Racing Commission. We need to get in front of this and not work from behind. Brett agreed that if it gets out of control we won't be able to reel it back in. Lane agreed that we need to be pro active; doing nothing will not be the correct path to follow.

Warren thanked Eddie Delahoussaye for coming to the meeting as well as hearing us as a member of the Racing Commission.

Michelle Rodriguez questioned Eddie on the new popper being introduced.

Eddie explained some of the new rules on the use of the whip.

Warren moved to the next item on the agenda, the Annual Awards Banquet. Roger asked for input from the board. Charlotte Clavier asked if the Breeders Association would once again sponsor a co banquet with R.E.A.P. No motion was made, however everyone agreed that this was a good idea, and Roger and Charlotte would get together to set a date and see that it is planned as a co banquet.

Having skipped an item, Warren asked Roger to explain the redistribution of purse from 7/4/15. Roger proceeded that the office received a purse redistribution from a race held back on 7/4/2015. We were told that the purse was being withheld due to a race fixing investigation. With the party now pleading guilty, the winner will be disqualified and the purse would be redistributed. The problem emulates from the fact that the Association never received anything that notified us that the purse was being withheld.

After discussion and a recommendation from Roger that we not try to go back seven years to collect monies that has been spent and taxes paid on, Brett Brinkman made a motion that we move forward and consider this an uncollectable mistake. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice. With a roll call vote all were in favor with one abstaining.

Brett then made a motion that we send a letter to the Racing Commission explaining our unhappiness with the situation and that we hope this never happens again. This motion was seconded by Michele LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

By-Law: – Val Murrell – Chairman

Val informed the Board that the committee will be meeting shortly to begin planning the sale for the upcoming fall.

Election Committee: – David Tillson -Chairman

No report at this time.

Finance and Audit: Tom Early – Chairman

Tom reported that Therese was sick and unable to present financials at this meeting. She reports that we are financially strong with a \$300,000 gain on the year. She will be presenting financials in about a week and would like a video conference to get approval of the financials. Reserves are back to where we were before Covid.

Government Affairs: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

Moved to Executive Session

Grievance Committee: Michelle LaVoice – Chairperson

Michelle brought to the board a grievance from a breeder who hadn't returned with two

mares who dropped foals in Louisiana. Explanation of the situation was given by Michele with input from Roger and Jim Montgomery. After discussion Tom early made a motion not to allow accreditation to the two foals in question. Michele Rodriguez seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously. Jim Montgomery abstained.

LTBA/HBPA Liaison Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman

Keith notified the board of the elimination of the \$5,000 dollar maiden claiming at EvD. John explained that the HBPA is asking the Commission to hire an expert that the tracks will answer to on track conditions. Questions about the new Historic Racing were discussed. However there are no definite answers as of now.

LTBA/LSRC Liaison Committee: Jake Delhomme – Chairman

No report at this time.

Inspection Committee: Brett Brinkman – Chairman

Brett began to bring an issue to the Board for debate. Before he began, Charlotte Clavier asked as to whether or not the board should hear the report before the Inspection has met and come to a determination on the facts. She believes that if the Board was possibly going to hear an appeal on this case it's best that the Inspection make a ruling prior to an appeal. After discussion it was decided that the Inspection Committee would hear the case and make a ruling to be presented to the board only in appeal.

Membership and Nominating: – Michele Rodriguez - Chairperson

Michele reported that Roger sent the committee of the membership and voting list as of January 31, 2022 for the committee to view. He informed that he went through the list to the best of his ability to eliminate persons and entities who should not be voting under the rules of the association. He asked the committee to also examine the list.

PAC Committee: Keith Hernandez – Chairman

No report at this time.

Salary and Benefits: Tom Early – Chairman

No report at this time.

Sale Committee: Val Murrell – Chairman

Val informed the board that no meeting of the committee has been made at this time; however he believes that a decision on the date of the sale needs to be done today. After discussion Charlotte made a motion that the Louisiana Thoroughbred Breeders Association host a Yearling Sale followed by a Mixed Session on October 1st at the Equine Sales Pavilion. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Old Business:

No report at this time.

New Business:

No Report at this time.

Date, Place, and Time of Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Val made a motion to hold the next meeting on April 12, 2022 at Café Josephine. This motion was seconded by Michelle LaVoice which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Brett Brinkman made a motion to move to Executive Session, this motion was seconded by Keith Hernandez which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Tom Early made a motion to return to Regular Session. This motion was seconded by Danny Guidry, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Charlotte Clavier made a motion to hire Mike Whitler to a one year contract as the Inspector for the LTBA as well as additional duties directed by a contract to be written and executed. Jim Montgomery seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

No action was taken on the renewing of the contract of the current lobbyist.

Tom Early made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Charlotte, which was voted on and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roger A. Heitzmann III

