

# **Virginia Racing Commission**

## **MINUTES**

### **OF THE**

#### **COMMISSION MEETING**

**June 21, 2016**

**State Corporation Commission**

**Tyler Building**

**Courtroom A**

**1300 East Main Street**

**Richmond, VA 23219**

#### In Attendance

##### Commission Members:

D.G. Van Clief, Jr., Chairman  
Carol G. Dawson, Vice Chairman  
I. Clinton Miller  
Charles Steger, PhD  
J. Sargeant Reynolds, Jr.

##### Commission Staff:

David S. Lermond, Jr., Interim Executive Secretary  
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator  
Charles R. Harden, Equine Medical Director

##### Attorney General's Office:

Joshua Laws, Esquire

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At 10:00 a.m., the regular monthly meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) was called to order by Chairman Van Clief.

During the appeal hearing in the matter of Lilith Boucher, Commissioner Miller moved that the penalty involved in this case be reduced to putting the horse in question on the Stewards' list and no fine because of extenuating circumstances. Seconded by Commissioner Steger. Commissioners Miller, Reynolds and Steger were in favor. Chairman Van Clief was opposed. Vice Chairman Dawson was recused and did not take part in the vote. The motion carried.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to approve minutes of the regular meeting held on April 27, 2016. Seconded by Vice Chairman Dawson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

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Commissioner Steger gave an oral report on the Executive Secretary search. The Commission is authorized in closed session between now and 15 days to conduct interviews for the Executive Secretary position.

Chairman Van Clief announced the appointment of members of the Racing Safety and Medication Committee. Vice Chairman Dawson, Chair of the committee gave a brief report on issues that are currently under discussion for the racing industry in Virginia.

The Commission unanimously approved an expenditure up to \$500,000 to support the owner's bonus program. The program will run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. The bonuses will be awarded to winning Virginia-breds competing in overnight races in a multi-state area on the east coast. The bonuses would be 25 percent of the purse with a \$10,000 cap.

Commissioner Reynolds moved to approve a \$30,000 expenditure for an additional maiden race for fillies and mares restricted to Virginia-breds to be run at Pimlico on June 25<sup>th</sup> from the restricted purse fund. Seconded by Vice Chairman Dawson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Dawson moved to approve the allocation of \$200,000 from the restricted purse fund to support two (2) remaining graded stakes, and took into consideration that part of the deal is to grant the Maryland Jockey Club the rights to the old Turf Cup. Seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

During the report from the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA), Jeb Hannum gave an overview on the progress being made thus far at Morven Park. Tom Eshelman, general manager at Shenandoah Downs gave an update on the project in Woodstock.

Commissioner Miller moved to grant a license for a satellite wagering facility at Breakers Sports Grill and Bar in Henrico, Virginia by the Virginia Equine Alliance, Incorporated, subject to all the provisions of §59.1-383 of the Code of Virginia, and subject to the six recommendations set forth in the Virginia Racing Commission's Staff Report. Seconded by Vice Chairman Dawson. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting was set for August 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

At 1:46 p.m., the Commission went into closed session with counsel reading the following motion at the request of the Chairman. "In accordance with the provisions of §2.2-3711(a)(7) of the code of Virginia, I move that the Commission go into closed meeting for the purpose of discussion, consideration and interviews of respective candidates for employment for the position of Executive Secretary of the Virginia Racing Commission, and the Virginia Racing Commission will not consider or discuss any other issues besides the issue that was specifically mentioned in the prospective motion. Seconded by Commissioner Steger. All were in favor. The motion carried unanimously.

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With no further business set forth on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.