

Virginia Racing Commission

MINUTES

OF THE

COMMISSION MEETING

September 9, 2015

**Patrick Henry Building
West Reading Room
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

In Attendance

Commission Members:

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

Commission Staff:

Bernard J. Hettel, Executive Secretary
C. Richard Harden, DVM, Equine Medical Director
David S. Lermond, Jr., Deputy Executive Secretary
Kimberly C. Mackey, Office Administrator
Courtney C. Reid, Program Support Technician

Office of Agriculture and Forestry

Samuel T. Towell, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry

Attorney General's Office:

Joshua E. Laws, Esq.

At 9:59 a.m., the meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) was called to order by Chairman Reynolds. All Commissioners were present.

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia §§ 59.1-364, 59.1-365, 59.1-376 and Virginia Administrative Code Sections 11VAC 10-30-10 through 11VAC 10-30-50, and following a presentation by John B. Hannum, III of the Virginia Equine Alliance, Inc., the Commission unanimously approved the Virginia Equine Alliance's application for a limited license for four (4) days of Standardbred racing at Oak Ridge race course in Arrington, Virginia on October 10th, 11th, 17th, and 18th.

The minutes of the Virginia Racing Commission meeting held on July 29, 2015 were unanimously approved.

The Commission unanimously approved the HPBA contract with the Virginia Gold Cup for a day of flat racing at Great Meadow on September 20th, 2015.

The Commission unanimously approved the Amendment to the 2015 HBPA and Virginia Gold Cup contract regarding Steeplechase race meets at Great Meadow.

The Commission unanimously approved the 2015 contract between the VHHA and the Virginia Equine Alliance for Standardbred racing at Oak Ridge.

The racing officials for Virginia Downs on September 20th, Oak Ridge, and the International Gold Cup were approved. The Commission granted authority to the Executive Secretary, Bernard Hettel, to accept and approve three missing officials' positions for the International Gold Cup.

The 2015 expenditures for the Standardbred portion of the Virginia Breeder's Fund were unanimously approved.

During the public comment period, Stan Guidroz from Colonial Downs proposed a plan for Colonial Downs to race in 2016 if negotiations with the Majority Horsemen's group for a lease agreement do not succeed. He asked for the members of the Racing Commission to support Colonial's efforts to resume racing at its facility.

Christie Harrell corrected the spelling of her name from the last meeting's minutes, and specified the location she spoke of, as Morven Park.

Scott Woogen stated the aforementioned plan presented by Colonial Down's does not include Harness racing.

Frank Petramalo stated that the VRC held hearings determining the recognized majority horsemen's groups and Colonial's suggestion of an agreement with another Horsemen's group would be unlawful. David Ross indicated that the VEA can only afford to do so much and the plan suggested by Colonial Downs is not different from previous discussions.

Tad Berman detailed his assessment of the history of Colonial Downs and his characterization of its officials.

Tom Eshelman reported on the success of the Shenandoah County Fair with Harness races at Woodstock, with his hopes to bring pari-mutuel racing to the fair in the future.

Commissioner Van Clief suggested that both the VEA and Colonial Downs continue negotiations leading to a potential lease agreement of the property. Commissioner Miller suggested all interested parties acquire a pari-mutuel analysis Dave Lermond prepared, visualizing the potential monetary benefits for all parties involved in racing at Colonial Downs. Chairman Reynolds agreed with the other Commission members and hopes all stakeholders will reexamine the numbers and keep discussing racing opportunities.

The next VRC meeting was set for Wednesday, October 14th at 10:00 a.m., with the location to be determined.

With no further business set forth on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.