

LOUISIANA STATE RACING COMMISSION MINUTES – June 12, 2020 Emergency Meeting

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

Judy W. Wagner, *First Vice Chairperson*
Dr. Patrick Bernard
Thomas B. Calvert
Donald "Don" Cravins
R. Hamilton "Hammy" Davis
K. R. "Ron" Finkelstein, O.D.
Benjamin J. Guilbeau, Jr.
Mike R. McHalfey
Louis Reine
Kenneth "Kenu" Romero
Mike Shelton

ABSENT

Bob F. Wright, *Chairman*
Eric G. Johnson

APPROVED

At the Commission Meeting of

9-2-2020

(Date)



Executive Director

Louisiana State Racing Commission

The meeting of the Louisiana State Racing Commission (LSRC) was called to order by the First Vice Chairperson on Friday, June 12, 2020 at 2:00 PM on the Conference Call. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present.

Commissioner Bernard motions to approve the meeting minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting, the February 12, 2020 meeting, the March 20, 2020 meeting, the May 5, 2020 meeting and the May 20, 2020 meeting; Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; motion carries.

I. ASSOCIATION REQUESTS

A. BOYD RACING, LLC d/b/a DELTA DOWNS RACETRACK, CASINO & HOTEL

2020 QUARTER HORSE MEET

1. RACES

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2020 quarter horse meet.
- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2020 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

2. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. **Ratification** of officials for 2020 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

2020-2021 THOROUGHBRED MEET

3. LICENSE APPROVALS

- a. **Approval** for 2020-2021 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

4. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A) AND POST TIMES

- a. **Approval** for 2020-2021 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

5. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2020-2021 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5; Commissioner Wagner seconds; motion carries.

B. THE OLD EVANGELINE DOWNS, LLC

d/b/a EVANGELINE DOWNS RACETRACK & CASINO

2020 THOROUGHBRED MEET

1. RACES

- a. **Ratification** of first condition book for 2020 thoroughbred meet.
- b. **Ratification** of designated races for 2020 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

2. STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT

- a. **Ratification** of officials for 2020 thoroughbred meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

3. STEWARD

- a. **Ratification** of Heriberto (Eddie) Arroyo to serve as Alternate State Steward for 2020 thoroughbred meet.
- b. **Ratification** of David Wedlake to serve as State Steward for 2020 thoroughbred meet.

2020 QUARTER HORSE MEET

4. LICENSE APPROVALS

- a. **Approval** for 2020 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

5. RACING DATES (R.S. 4:158A) AND POST TIMES

- a. **Approval** for 2020 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

6. WAGERING (LAC 35:XIII.Ch 103-127)

- a. **Approval** for wagering format for 2020 quarter horse meet as provided in Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Lyle Guillory, representing the Quarter Horse Racing Association of Louisiana, states that his organization opposes Item #5, which only requests 39 days of quarter horse racing at Evangeline Downs, because it deviates from the current statute, which allows for 46 days of quarter horse racing.

Mr. Ed Fenasci, Executive Director of Louisiana Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (LaHBPA), informs that the proposed 39 race days would allow the overnight purse average to be about equal to last year's average whereas trying to run 46 race days would reduce the overnight purse average to less than \$60,000 per day. He states that the transferred race days from Fair Grounds was part of an agreement between LaHBPA, Fair Grounds, and the Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association (LQHBA).

Commissioner Cravins asks how the Fair Grounds quarter horse meet factors into the 39 quarter horse race days at Evangeline Downs. Mr. Gardiner responds that Evangeline Downs' proposed meet of 39 quarter horse race days total will include its own 29 race days and 10 race days from Fair Grounds' meet.

Mr. Bruce Salard, Executive Director of LQHBA, states that this proposal was agreed upon unanimously by the LQHBA Board Members.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6; Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; Poll vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner III, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means to vote for approval and Nay means to vote against approval; 9 - Yea, 2 - Nay; motion carries.

**C. CHURCHILL DOWNS LOUISIANA HORSERACING COMPANY, LLC
d/b/a FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE & SLOTS**

2020 QUARTER HORSE MEET

1. **Approval** of Fair Grounds' Post COVID-19 Re-Opening and Operations Plan.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve; Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; motion carries.

2. **Approval** of Fair Grounds' Plan to Transfer 2020 Quarter Horse Race Dates and Purses to Evangeline Downs.

Mr. Guillory states that the Quarter Horse Racing Association of Louisiana opposes Item #2 because they do not want the race dates and purses transferred from Fair Grounds to Evangeline Downs.

Commissioner Reine motions to approve Items #1 and #2; Commissioner Finkelstein seconds; Poll vote conducted by Mr. Charles Gardiner III, Executive Director of LSRC, in which Yea means to vote for approval and Nay means to vote against approval; 9 - Yea, 2 - Nay; motion carries.

**D. HARRAH'S BOSSIER CITY INVESTMENT COMPANY, LLC
d/b/a HARRAH'S LOUISIANA DOWNS**

2020 THOROUGHBRED MEET

1. **STEWARDS, OFFICIALS & MANAGEMENT**

- a. **Ratification** of *Heberto Castillo to serve as Placing Judge for 2020 thoroughbred meet.

**new official*

Commissioner Wagner motions to approve; Commissioner Reine seconds; motion carries.

II. OTHER

A. ANNUAL RENEWAL OF TRAINING TRACK APPLICATIONS:

- 1. Review of applications for training track licenses pursuant to LAC 46: XLI.1903-1907.**
 - a. Benton Training Center (The Training Center Improvements, Inc.)**
 - b. The Training Center at Copper Crowne, LLC**
 - c. Folsom Thoroughbred Training Center Owners Association, Inc.**

Mr. Brett Bonin, Counsel for LSRC, informs that the applications for the Training Center Improvements, Inc., the Training Center at Copper Crowne, and Folsom Thoroughbred Training Center Owners Association, Inc. have been completed, all information required by the Rules has been submitted, and the applications are before the Commission to renew.

Commissioner Davis motions to approve all three applications for license renewal; Commissioner Wagner seconds; motion carries.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners motion to adjourn; Commissioners second; First Vice Chairperson Wagner adjourns the meeting.



Charles A. Gardiner III
Executive Director