

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
ILLINOIS RACING BOARD
JANUARY 13, 2009
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

On Tuesday, January 13, 2009, a regular meeting of the Illinois Racing Board was held at 9:30 a.m. in room 040 on the 9th floor of the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois. The following Board members were present: Chairman Joseph Sinopoli, Commissioners Dennis Bookshester (telephonic), W. Jack Chamblin, Angelo Ciambrone, William Farley, Jr., Timothy Martin, Jon Metcalf, Michael Murphy (telephonic), Paul Smith and Robert Winchester. Staff members Marc Laino, Shelley Kalita, Bob Lang and Mickey Ezzo were also present. Commissioner Joseph Casciato was absent.

Chairman Sinopoli called the meeting to order.

ORGANIZATION LICENSEE REQUEST

Commissioner Winchester moved to approve the list of racing officials submitted by Fairmount Park for 2009. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. President Brian Zander appeared on behalf of Fairmount Park. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

BOARD ITEMS

Section 26(g)(13) of the Horse Racing Act authorizes the Board to certify purse recapture no later than January 31st of the succeeding year. Chairman Sinopoli moved that the following recapture amounts are to be deducted from the purse accounts in 2009 pending any agreements between the horsemen and the racetracks: Arlington Park - \$4,417,773; Balmoral Park - \$2,077,560; Fairmount Park (Thoroughbred) - \$1,733,128; Fairmount Park (Colt Fund) - \$74,123; Hawthorne Race Course - \$3,072,011; and Maywood Park - \$2,405,487.

Commissioner Ciambrone seconded the motion. Executive Director Greg Syzmski and attorney Erick Bohlman appeared on behalf of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. The motion passed 9 to 1 with Commissioner Metcalf voting nay.

OTHER ITEMS

A request submitted by the Illinois Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Foundation (ITBOF) for approval to initiate rulemaking to amend Section 1424.250 was withdrawn by the ITBOF.

Executive Director Tony Somone and Board member Bill Hunter appeared on behalf of the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association (IHHA) to discuss pre-race TCO2 testing. The IHHA representatives stated that pre-race TCO2 testing is necessary to restore the public's confidence in the integrity of harness racing and the lack of funding should not prevent the Board from initiating a pre-race testing program. The IHHA requested that the Board explore all options concerning pre-race TCO2 testing.

Chairman Sinopoli instructed staff to arrange a meeting with representatives of the IHHA and the racetracks to further discuss this issue.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Based on staff's request, the hearing for Gregory Henderson (2008H13) was continued.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Ciambrone stated that for the good of horse racing, the Board has an obligation to map out the future of horse racing in Illinois. Commissioner Bookshester agreed and requested that a committee be formed to examine the wide range of issues facing the horse racing industry. Chairman Sinopoli agreed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Ciambrone moved that the Board approve the minutes of its regular meeting on December 9, 2008. Chairman Sinopoli seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:10 a.m. Commissioner Winchester motioned for adjournment and Commissioner Chamblin seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Laino
Executive Director