

Horse Racing Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021

Present: Chair Nielsen, Tom Barrett, Michael Carlo, William Frank, Joseph Rivet

Also Present: Mike Krombeen, Sylvia Renteria, Michael Hetherington, Lucas Cairns

Chair Nielsen called the meeting to order and roll was taken Nielsen, Barrett, Carlo, Frank, Rivet - present.

There was no public input.

Mike Krombeen – gave an update on Legislation. Conference Committee passed a supplemental budget, HB 4398, that included \$125,000 appropriation for the HRAC. Expected to be signed by the Governor later this year. House Regulatory Reform Committee took testimony on Senate Bills 396 -399. Negotiations are ongoing with Administration. Opposition from Casino lobby and the City of Detroit was presented.

HRAC did not present a position at the hearing. However, the HRAC annual report will reflect a position, which will be available for public use. A discussion took place on the HRAC annual report and the process for disseminating it. A draft plan is expected in the coming weeks.

Meeting took place with MDARD to outline 2022 Summer Fair Program.

A discussion took place related the Northville fall meet. There is a shortage of available entrants. Horsemen Assn. indicated that shortage is throughout the region and other states are better position to attract competing horses.

Tom Barrett discussed the significant overall gaming demand in Michigan.

Chair Nielsen requested suggestions for the appropriated funds in the HRAC. Mike Krombeen outlined the statutory options for use of the funds. He suggested marketing and promotion as an initial spend. Discussion took place on the parameters of distribution of those funds. State specific research, including comparison to adjoining states and economic development opportunities should be considered. Support for fairs were discussed including facilities. A potential Necropsy program was also mentioned. Potential partnership with the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture program should also be considered.

A meeting between Chair Nielsen/Mike Krombeen and the new MSU Veterinary School Dean is scheduled in January to provide the College input on horse racing.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022.

Chair Nielsen adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.