

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
HORSE RACING ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**Constitution Hall
Coleman Young Conference Room
525 W Allegan St
Lansing, MI 48933**

and

**Remote Technology via Microsoft Teams
Dial: 1-248-509-0316, Conference ID 865 8768 71#**

**MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2023**

PRESENT IN PERSON:

Brian Nielsen, Chair, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Thomas Barrett, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Michael Carlo, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
Sylvia Renteria, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

PRESENT REMOTELY:

William Frank, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Nielsen called the meeting of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Horse Racing Advisory Commission (MDARD HRAC) to order at 2:00 p.m. on March 16, 2023. Roll call was taken by each member introducing themselves.

APPROVAL OF 2023 SCHEDULE

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE. SECONDED BY MR. CARLO. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: MR. CARLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA FOR MARCH 16, 2023. SECONDED BY MR. BARRETT. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 18, 2022 MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MR. BARRETT. MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is June 15, 2023, to be held at Constitution Hall, 525 W Allegan St, Lansing, MI at 2:00 p.m. Remote technology via Microsoft Teams will also be offered.

UPDATE ON THE HORSE EXPO

Crystal Terrell, representing the Michigan Harness Horseman Association (MHHA), gave an update on the Horse Racing Booth the Commission sponsored. Her future recommendations were to only set up on Saturday, and supply freebies. Members held discussion on the future marketing strategies.

REVIEW PROPOSAL REQUEST

Inger Lanese, representing the Michigan Horse Council, discussing a future study on the equine industry in the coming year. Commissioner Barrett brought to the commission's attention, that he expects there to be a study already done on Michigan horse racing, and there was no need for further action.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

David Ladd and Mike Krombeen, both lobbyist for horse racing in the state of Michigan, gave an update on current proposed legislation. Commissioners discussed new ideas they had to increase interest in the industry. Members discussed and agreed upon inviting legislatures to new promotions and events in the future to gain interest.

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONAL REQUEST

A request was made by MHHA to invest funding to livestream county fair races for the 2023 season. Discussion was held on how this would be marketed and implemented.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING NOT TO EXCEED \$23,000, AS A GRANT, TO FUND LIVESTREAKING AND ALL COST ASSOCIATED IN BROADCASTING TO THE HORSE RACING SUMER PROGRAM. SECONDED BY MR. CARLO.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YAYS: Commissioners Nielsen, Barrett, Carlo, and Renteria.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

Commissioner Barrett discussed the new procedure in fingerprinting, that was being enforced by Michigan Gaming Control. All members were discouraged by the change in practice. Commissioner Frank ensured the members he would make connections to see if there was something that could be done.

Commissioner Renteria recognized Michael Hetherington as he leaves MDARD on Friday, March 17th. The Commission thanked Mr. Hetherington for his hard work on the Horse Racing Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Inger Lanese, representing the Michigan Horse Council, thanked the Horse Racing Commission for their commitment to the equine industry.

ADJOURN

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MR. CARLO SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:36 P.M.