

**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 832 525 485#**

**MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2023**

PRESENT IN PERSON:

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

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Michael Carlo, Member, Horse Racing Advisory Commission
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 2:07 p.m. on July 20, 2023. Roll call was taken by each member introducing themselves.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 15, 2023
MEETING MINUTES. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA. MOTION CARRIED.**

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

The next scheduled meeting is September 21, 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.

**MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO ADD AUGUST 24TH AT 2:00 PM, AT
CONSTITUTION HALL TO THE 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE. SECONDED BY
MS. RENTERIA. MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA
FOR JULY 20, 2023. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA MOTION CARRIED.**

UPDATE ON THE CIVIC ECONOMICS PROJECT

Brandon Colby, Buyer, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, explained he would defer to Commission for approval. Commissioner Barrett asked for a review of spellings, especially the names of racetracks. All commissioners will be reviewing the document to ensure it is a complete document by Thursday, July 27th.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN ITEMS (ACTION ITEMS)

Support for the September Yearling Sale:

Commissioner Barrett explained this is a great opportunity to market horse racing to potential buyers. The grant funding would be used for advertising and the seminar at the fall yearling sale.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000, AS A GRANT, TO MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER YEARLING SALE. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YAYS: Commissioners Nielsen, Barrett, and Renteria.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED.

Advertising for Horse Racing Events:

The chair explained a grant proposal for \$4000 to Michigan Harness Horseman Association for radio advertising. Ms. Renteria had concerns as to the reach of audience the grant will reach due to radio audience. The Commission agreed that future options may need to be broader for future grants. Commissioner Carlo shared concerns that marketing follow the rules set by the Michigan Gaming Control while promoting events.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000, AS A GRANT, TO MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION FOR RADIO ADVERTISING. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YAYS: Commissioners Nielsen, Barrett, and Renteria.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED.

Apparel Request for Michigan Harness Horseman Association:

The Chair explained the proposed request from MHHA \$7000 for apparel promoting legislation support seemed to be inappropriate funding. Ms. Renteria and Mr. Carlo agreed. A majority of the commission decided to pass on the grant.

Track Maintenance Grant Request

Commissioner Barrett explained the MHHA is requesting \$24,800 for the county fair tracks maintenance around the state. Commissioner Frank said he is in support of safe racetracks. Commissioner Carlo wanted to confirm this is a one-time funding.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE SPENDING NOT TO EXCEED \$24,800, AS A GRANT, TO MICHIGAN HARNESS HORSEMAN ASSOCIATION FOR RACETRACK MAINTENANCE. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YAYS: Commissioners Nielsen, Barrett, and Renteria.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

Commissioner Barrett discussed the pending legislation that would remove the cap appropriated funding for the industry. Bills have been introduced and are before the Senate Committee. Mr. Mike Krombeen explained this will standardize the tax rate for all racing.

Racing and Gaming Conference at Saratoga Springs:

Chairman Nielsen discussed the upcoming conference in Saratoga Springs, New York. Commissioner Carlo suggested at least one, if not two Commissioners attend the conference. The agenda topics include harness racing and felt the agenda was appropriate for the commission to attend. Ms. Renteria informed there was already money allocated in the commissioner's budget for travel.

MOTION: MR. BARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE ALLOCATE TRAVEL FUNDING FOR UP TO TWO COMMISSIONERS TO THE SARATOGA SPRINGS CONFERENCE. SECONDED BY MS. RENTERIA.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YAYS: Commissioners Nielsen, Barrett, and Renteria.

NAYS: NONE

MOTION CARRIED.

OTHER

Commissioner Barrett brought up a discussion on a letter pertaining to Horse Racing final at Northville Downs instead of fairgrounds. Commissioner Carlo agreed that there was some misunderstanding from the letter and they hoped to get it cleared up before the time of race.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURN

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 P.M.