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MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION

Racehorse Aftercare Committee
Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4pm CST
This is a Remote Meeting – Hosted with Microsoft Teams
Call-in: 651-395-7448
Meeting Code: 998 447 497#

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from November 12, 2020 Racehorse Aftercare Committee
5. Discussion
 - a. Review Committee mission statement
 - b. Criteria development: what to do when a MN racehorse is discovered in a kill pen
 - c. Available funds for surgical treatment of adoptable horses
 - d. Updates to funding request application
 - e. Other matters
6. Adjournment

Notes to Public: **In effort to maintain order and maximize clarity, please keep microphones muted unless addressed by the chair.**

Please notify the Racing Commission if you need special accommodations for this meeting. This material can be given to you in different forms, like large print, Braille or on a tape. If you use a TTY, you can call us using the Minnesota Relay Service at 7-1-1 or 1-800-627-3529.



MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION

Racehorse Retirement Committee

Thursday, November 12th, 2020 – 3:30pm
VIA WebEx

MINUTES

Call to Order: Chair Lisa Goodman called the meeting to order at 3:32pm

Roll Call: Chair Lisa Goodman, Commissioner Barbara Colombo, Commissioner Roy Johnson, Dr. Lynn Hovda (Chief Commission Veterinarian - MRC), Stephanie Jenson (Safety Coordinator – MRC), Bob Schiewe (Deputy Director – MRC) and Joseph Newton (Staff Counsel – MRC), Andrew Offerman (Canterbury Park), Taro Ito (Running Aces), and Cathy Dessert (MHRI)

Adoption of Agenda: After asking for any additions or changes, Chair Goodman asked for a motion to adopt the proposed agenda. Motion was carried.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Goodman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting with no changes. Motion was carried.

Discussion: The primary discussion matter was funding requests for the two applications received for the 2020 funding cycle. The two applications received were Bowman Second Chance Thoroughbred Adoption (BSCTA) and This Old Horse (TOH). These applications had been reviewed by Committee members prior to the meeting as to give ample time to consider the applications.

Jenson stated that there was exactly \$43,191 available for distribution. It was also noted that these funds can be carried over from fiscal year to fiscal year without losing the accrued funds. Commissioner Johnson stated that since the previously retained funds of \$6,666 were not spent, a smaller amount should be retained in reserve. Commissioner Johnson proposed that \$5,191 be retained in the account. Andrew Offerman of Canterbury Park stated that an emergency fund is available with Canterbury Park for situations that may arise as well.

Chair Goodman moved for approval. Motion was carried.

Mr. Offerman stated that Canterbury park typically disperses their matched per-start fees in the first quarter of 2021. Mr. Ito also informed the Committee that their 501c3 was now out of its three-year waiting period and could soon start offering BINGO and Pull Tab. This revenue would be used to support multiple initiatives including retired racehorses.

Jenson gave a brief introduction of both applicants. Starting with Bowman Second Chance Thoroughbred Adoption (BSCTA); Jenson stated that Dr. Bowman was requesting funding in the amount of \$40,000 to cover the costs associated with feeding the horses in his program. Dr. Bowman took 33 horses into his care directly from Canterbury Park during the 2020 race meet.

This Old Horse (TOH) was seeking funding for their racehorse retaining program known as Racehorse Reimagined and their new sanctuary program known as The Distaff. The Distaff program aims to be a place for retired broodmares (female horses that have been used for breeding). TOH took 9 horses into their program directly from Canterbury Park during the 2020 race meet.

Commissioner Johnson stated that with the \$38,000 available for distribution he calculated that BSCTA should receive approximately \$30,000 and TOH should receive \$8,000 based on how many horses they took into their care directly from the racetrack. Commissioner Johnson also stated that he feels re-training is an important part of finding these horses forever homes. Dr. Hovda reminded the committee that letdown time for racehorses is also a very important aspect that allows their minds and bodies time to heal.

A motion was suggested by Chair Goodman that funding in the following amounts be recommended to the Full Minnesota Racing Commission at the November 19th, 2020 meeting.

Bowman Second Chance Thoroughbred Adoption: \$38,000
This Old Horse: \$8,000

Motion made by Johnson, seconded by Goodman. A nay vote was cast by Commissioner Colombo. Motion carried.

Chair Goodman began a discussion about the future of this committee and her desire to grow it into something larger. Commissioners Goodman and Colombo stated that she would like to meet with racetrack management, the horseperson groups, horse rescue partners and the Minnesota Racehorse Engagement Project (Joe Scurto) in an effort to explore new funding and programs for racehorse retirement. These meetings would be used to “dream big” and find creative solutions. Commissioner Colombo stated that racehorses and aftercare should be considered a cost of doing business, and a plan for their care after racing should be a priority.

Chair Goodman also stated that the Committee should develop a mission statement and directed Stephanie Jenson to circulate a draft she proposed to those involved in this meeting.

Motion to adjourn Chair Goodman, seconded Johnson. Moved. Meeting adjourned at 11:54pm

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, ____ BY A QUORUM OF THE RACEHORSE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MINNESOTA RACING COMMISSION.

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Minnesota Racehorse Aftercare Mission Statement

The Minnesota Racing Commission Racehorse Aftercare group is tasked with identifying productive and beneficial, to both horse and human, uses for retired racehorses and to increase the number of retired racehorses made available for such uses. We shall develop and identify new and innovative ideas and methods that can utilize private and public funding sources to place retired racehorses in such productive and beneficial uses, and to increase both the number of horses so used and the scale of variety of such uses