



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Zoom Video Conference**

**March 25, 2020
Albuquerque, NM**

PRESENT

President Tom Goncharoff & 1st Vice President Mike Logan and 2nd Vice President Jay L. Taylor and board members Norma Alvarez, Mark Brown, Warren Franklin, Debra Laney, Annette McCloy, Mac Murray, Verner Query and Nancy Summers (late arrival).

ABSENT

Miguel L. Gallegos.

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

ZIA PARK NEW MEXICO BRED STAKES SCHEDULE

President Goncharoff mentioned that Mike Logan had sent out a spreadsheet that included all the New Mexico Bred Stakes at Zia Park for the Trustees to look at and asked Mike to go over it.

Mike Logan went through all the stakes state-wide and then specifically at Zia Park. There was quite a bit of discussion about the 60 / 40 split and with his proposal it ends up with 61% going to the Thoroughbreds and 39% going to the Quarter Horses. He has gotten some negative comments this week and he feels that he is a Trustee of the New Mexico Horse Breeders Association and he represents both breeds. He invited the other Trustees to join him and Verner Query on the Stakes Committee. They could really use the help. He is happy to answer any questions the other Trustees may have on his proposal.

President Goncharoff summarized Mike's proposal. Basically, we are trying to bring some parity on these stakes at Zia Park. We are talking about reducing three Thoroughbred stakes by a total of \$50,000 on the added money and then adding a total of \$65,000 to the NM Bred Quarter Horse Stakes. That includes adding another Quarter Horse stake. Mike Logan reminded the board that we would also be reducing a Quarter Horse stake by \$15,000 as well.

President Goncharoff stated that we had already taken a vote on this at the previous meeting but felt that we needed some clarification before we make an ultimate decision. Our organization is unique in that we do represent both breeds and the board is supposedly balanced. Our goal, as an association, is to improve the breed as a whole, regardless of our own personal biases or business connections.

Jay L. Taylor said that he has been on the board for fourteen years and this isn't the first time this has come up. Why do we want to take funds from one breed and give it to the other when we don't have to? Each year our income has gone up and we have added to the stakes races. We should think ahead and add those extra funds where they are needed instead of taking funds from an existing race.

President Goncharoff asked if there is money in the fund that we could do this now? Jay L. Taylor explained that unfortunately, due to the virus, the funds will be down this year. Our income is at zero right now and we don't know what we are going to be able to add now. Mary Barber covers this in her letters to the racetracks by saying the funds she plans to add is estimated and may have to be adjusted. We are going to have to cut back on all of the added money now. Debra J. Laney feels that this doesn't hurt anybody and that we should try to make things fair between the Thoroughbreds and the Quarter Horses. Jay L. Taylor agrees but feels that we should not take funds from one breed and give it to another. Debra J. Laney asked if that wouldn't take a couple of years? Why don't we do this now and then start going with Jay's Taylor's idea.

Mike Logan thinks we should have two goals for once things get back to normal. It takes \$50,000 and two consecutive years to have black type. For a Quarter Horse race, it only has to be \$15,000 and it has to have an entry or starting fee in order to be black type. Mark Brown commented that is correct for now, but it may be changing in the future.

Mark Brown asked how this got so far out of whack? Norma Alvarez explained that we have always tried to help the Thoroughbreds and the racetracks have said that the Thoroughbreds' handle more than the Quarter Horses. Now they are using this to say we don't have enough horses because we have Thoroughbred races with short fields. This is their excuse to cut race dates.

President Goncharoff stated that it is a worthy goal to try to achieve parity. The questions is how do we get there. He thinks Jay's concerns on this are valid. If we don't have the funds it is kind of a moot point.

Mike Logan asked to bear in mind that even with this adjustment, we are staying within that 60 / 40 split.

(Nancy Summers joined the meeting and Verner lost his connection.)

President Goncharoff got Nancy Summers up to speed as to where we are in the meeting.

Nancy Summers asked why some of the races had more money than others at Zia Park? Mike Logan explained that no one seems to know the answer to that. It was from the initial contribution from both the horsemen and the breeders.

President Goncharoff asked Mary Barber when we are supposed to have this information and was told that Chris McErlean of Zia Park had planned to put it on the agenda for the April Commission meeting.

Nancy Summers recommended that we use proportional figures instead of actual money amounts for now. She is not in favor of the \$30,000 New Mexico Classic. If we threw that out, she would be in favor of this.

President Goncharoff thought that shortening the distances will generate more interest in these Quarter Horse races. Debra J. Laney mentioned that we don't have a lot left for the older Quarter Horses. Mike Logan explained that the New Mexico Classic will be for three-year old's and up but that it will also be for four-year old's or older preferred. This will make sure we have a full field. His goal is to get more horses going in these races and especially more black type races for our horses.

Debra J. Laney feels that since we don't know what the funds will be since the closing of the casinos, we should put the proportions rather than a hard number and she also feels that we need the New Mexico Classic for older horses at 350 yards. There are six Thoroughbred stakes races at the same distances and having two Quarter Horse races for older horses at the same distance should not be a problem either.

Jay L. Taylor thinks that since we do not know what funds we will have, that we should just put that we will be adding 61% of whatever funds we have to the Thoroughbreds and 39% of the funds for the Quarter Horses.

President Goncharoff asked who makes the decisions on these purses and distances? Is it the racetrack management? Mike Logan explained that Zia Park does but they are open to suggestions. They do not have a seven furlong shoot there so that is why 6 ½ is as far as they can go one turn. That is why the distances are what they are. President Goncharoff asked if we could ask them to change the Namehimastreaker from 450 to 400 and Mike Logan thought that Zia Park would consider it.

Nancy Summers asked if things get really bad, could we maybe drop some races or would we rather just have some cheaper purses. Mike Logan is optimistic that it will not get to that point. Debra J. Laney feels that we would not want these races to lose their black type.

Debra J. Laney made a motion that we adopt Mike Logan's chart based on percentage of funds as close as we can get to 60 / 40 and we will have to determine the amount the added money will be once we know what is available. President Goncharoff asked if before we have a second on this motion, is there anything else we need to discuss first? Jay L. Taylor said that Mary Barber needs to keep us updated. Zia Park needs to push this out a ways, because right now it would just be a shot in the dark. President Goncharoff asked if there is a second on the motion. Seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 9:0.

(Warren Franklin had left the meeting.)

OPEN DISCUSSION

Debra J. Laney would like us to start having a log- book of the votes. Who made the motion, who seconded and how the vote went. Last year we had some difficulty recalling how votes went. That would be easier to find instead of having to read through the all the minutes to find them.

Norma Alvarez thought it should also be by subject.

Debra J. Laney made a motion that we start keeping a log of all of our motions, seconds, and votes to be kept in a loose-leaf notebook for easy access, seconded by Norma Alvarez. Motion carried 9:0.

President Goncharoff told the Trustees that Beverly Bourguet, along with Candy Ezzell, Mary Kay Papen and Susan Vescovo played a big part in keeping the backside open at Sunland Park. We need to thank these ladies on Facebook and also in our newsletter. We will send personal thank you notes to each one.

Jay L. Taylor brought up about keeping the office open. He thought we might touch base with Ralph Vincent to see if we qualify for some of this government funding. He listed a few things that we could do during this time. Paulette is down to three days a week and is happy to go home when her work is done. Mary Barber reported that this is a good time to get a lot done and get caught up for the first time. We are still getting registrations and memberships through our website and through the US Mail. Our lobby is closed to walk ins, but we can still accept applications and are available by phone. We need to be careful with the mail. Debra J. Laney thinks that we need to make sure that the work we are doing is essential and not just busy work. We don't want to get back to the situation where we don't have any budget. Jay L. Taylor also feels that we don't want to get so far behind it is difficult to get caught up. Mack Murray suggested that we advertise our hours that we are available. He is concerned that we have a lot of pregnant mares going out of state and we don't want to have disgruntled people.

Mac Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Debra J. Laney. Motion carried 9:0.

Tom Goncharoff
NMHBA President

Mary M. Barber
Attest