



**Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Zoom Video Conference**

**September 23, 2020
Albuquerque, NM**

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Miguel Gallegos & Nancy Summers

QUORUM

President Goncharoff acknowledged a quorum present.

MINUTES

There were no minutes to be approved for this meeting.

RACE DATES

President Goncharoff started the meeting by informing the Trustees that Commissioner Buffington, who is the Chairman of the Race Dates Committee, really needs to get going on this and time is of the essence. There is a meeting tomorrow morning with the New Mexico Horsemen's Association that we have been invited to attend. He then turned it over to Mary Barber to inform the Trustees of what our original race dates proposal was.

Mary Barber was able to pull up the race dates calendar that showed what had been proposed earlier in the year. The calendar showed that we had asked for 71 days for Sunland Park, 30 days for SunRay Park, 50 days for Ruidoso Downs, 40 days for the Downs At Albuquerque, 17 days for the New Mexico State Fair, and 56 days for Zia Park. This is a total of 264 days (copy incorporated into the record). This chart can be easily updated. She thinks we should think positive and start out with a good number of days and then adjust them as needed throughout the year.

President Goncharoff stated that we should start with Sunland Park since their meet will be coming up next and asked what purse money is available for them. Mary Barber then

put up a copy of her gaming spread sheet on the screen for the Trustees to be able to see what we have for each racetrack. This spread sheet shows that we have \$2,125,166.62 for Sunland Park. Of that, \$1,268,553.01 is for our contribution to New Mexico Bred stakes races and \$856,613.61 is for New Mexico Bred overnight races. Sunland Park also has something like \$1.6 million in the horsemen's purse fund. They would have a total of around \$3.7 million.

Debra J. Laney commented that track management might want to move all that money over for the overnight races and asked if we would have to do that or not. President Goncharoff does not think we would have to do that. He thinks we may need to handle this the same way we did with Zia Park and put enough on each race to make sure they continue to be black type. Mike Logan has been working on this. He reported that we have enough money on hand to run all of our New Mexico Bred stakes with our contribution. This is a little easier than even Zia Park was. The Shue Fly may need to be dropped since they have not sent out nomination blank yet. It may be too late. They may be able to change the Shue Fly to an overnight stake for this year. Mary Barber asked to be clear that the entire purse would be made up of our funds and was told that is correct. Debra J. Laney feels that we need to protect our stakes races. She would like to see the breeders reduce the amount we put on \$5,000 claiming races that are not full fields.

President Goncharoff suggested that we move on and form a race dates committee. He reminded the Trustees that this committee will have a meeting with the NMHA tomorrow morning.

The people who volunteered for this committee are:

Mike Logan

Debra J. Laney

Verner Query

Tom Goncharoff

Mary Barber will attend the meetings as well.

OPEN DISCUSSION

President Goncharoff started off by asking if the Trustees had heard about the Gaming Recovery Act? The Trustees had been sent a copy earlier and they all had an opportunity to look it over. He had spoken with Rick Baugh of Sunland Park about it earlier. President Goncharoff also stated that he had read through the bill pretty thoroughly and he cannot see where racing would be protected in this state. Rick told him that he wanted to get this going first and then the negotiations can begin. This could be huge for racing as long as racing is included in all of this, even if it is limited to slot machines. Debra J. Laney stated that they have machines because of horse racing and that is our bargaining chip.

We go in and say we want a piece of all of it and then go from there. We want to make sure that we have racing year round. President Goncharoff let the Trustees know that there is going to be a Legislative Finance Committee meeting on October 1st and that Sunland Park will be there to propose this. Tom plans to write a letter to Senator Burt with some talking points that would basically have all the key points like making sure that racing is included. The economic development aspect of this could be huge. Also, how much does tourism overlap with racing? Some of these funds should be earmarked for marketing of horse racing. When we get back to normal, we need to mandate a minimum number of race dates in the statute. Mark Brown said that whatever minimum you set is the number of race dates you will get. It should be tied to the revenues available. Jay L. Taylor thinks that an unlimited number of slot machines and adding table games and all would really increase the income. Norma Alvarez is afraid this might hurt Ruidoso Downs. Jay Taylor feels this would give Ruidoso a level playing field with the Indians.

Debra J. Laney suggested that we form a committee to work on this. President Goncharoff mentioned that we could use the Thompson brothers as our lobbyists if we are aligned with the horsemen.

The following Trustees volunteered to be on the Legislative Committee:

Norma Alvarez

Mark Brown

Nancy Summers (was nominated by other Trustees)

Warren Franklin

Tom Goncharoff

Jay L. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Debra J. Laney. Motion carried 9:0.

Tom Goncharoff
NMHBA President

Mary M. Barber
Attest