

# ILLINOIS RACING BOARD

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

On Wednesday, September 16, 2020, a regular meeting of the Illinois Racing Board was held at the James R. Thompson Center (JRTC), Chicago, Illinois and via WebEx Audio Conferencing starting at 11:00 a.m. The following Board members participated: Chairman Dan Beiser (JRTC) and Commissioners Leslie Breuer Jr, Marcus Davis, Charles MacKelvie, Benjamin Reyes, and Leslye Sandberg (JRTC). Staff members Domenic DiCera (JRTC), John Gay (JRTC), Mickey Ezzo, Michael Belmonte, and Donald Marquez also participated.

### BOARD REQUEST

Chairman Beiser moved for approval of the following race dates and conditions for calendar year 2021. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion.

**FAIRMOUNT PARK, INC.** - 53 live thoroughbred race programs with 7 races per day minimum.

- April 27 through May 31- Racing 2 days per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- June 1 through September 6 - Racing 3 days per week on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Racing on September 6.

**ARLINGTON PARK RACECOURSE, LLC** - 68 thoroughbred race programs and 220 total host programs.

- January 3 through March 5 - dark host time. No live racing.
- April 26 through May 31, racing 2 days per week on Fridays and Saturdays. Live racing begins on April 30. Dark April 26 through April 29 and May 7, racing on May 9.
- June 1 through June 30, racing 3 days per week on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Racing on June 20.
- July 1 through August 14, racing 4 days per week on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Dark July 1.
- August 15 through August 31, racing 4 days per week on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Dark August 4 and 11, racing on August 1 and 8.
- September 1 through September 30, racing 3 days per week on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Dark September 2, 3 and 26 through 30, racing on September 5.

**HAWTHORNE RACE COURSE, INC.** - 50 race programs and 145 total host programs.

- January 1 and 2 – dark host time. No live racing.
- March 6 through April 25, racing 2 days per week on Saturdays and Sundays.
- October 1 through November 30, racing 3 days per week on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.
- December 1 through December 31, racing 2 days per week on Saturdays and Sundays. Dark December 25.

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**SUBURBAN DOWNS, INC.** - 63 race programs and 365 total host programs.

- May 7 through September 26, racing 3 nights per week on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

With respect to host track status, Section 3.075 of the Illinois Horse Racing Act, the Board finds that conditions are present to allow a lesser schedule of live racing than 5 days per week and 9 races per day.

Conditions from the following paragraphs in the Board Order awarding thoroughbred and standardbred racing dates for calendar year 2020 shall be incorporated in the order awarding thoroughbred and standardbred racing dates for calendar year 2021: paragraphs 30, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47

Each organization licensee shall maintain an open backstretch at least three weeks prior to the commencement of its respective race meeting and for the entirety of their race meet with sufficient housing for backstretch workers and sufficient stall space to accommodate horses for all race dates awarded. Housing shall be consistent with the applicable state and local occupancy statutes and ordinances;

Each licensee (as defined by Section 3.20 of the Illinois Horse Racing Act) shall make pari-mutuel settlements for a fifteen (15) day cycle, mutually agreed upon by the 2021 organization licensees. Pari-mutuel settlements include, but are not limited to, track commissions, purse commissions, breakage, surcharges, and interstate host fees. Custodial outs shall be settled on a monthly cycle unless an alternative schedule is mutually agreed upon by the licensees.

Fairmount Park shall provide Board staff a satisfactory plan to address issues identified in their recently certified audit report.

The Board's Executive Director shall have the authority to authorize the vacating of awarded live racing dates at the request of the organization licensee when exigent circumstances are present. The Executive Director also has the authority to reassign such vacated dates within the organization licensees' meet but only on a day before the next scheduled Board meeting. Any request to reassign a vacated date after the next scheduled board meeting must be approved by the Board.

Melissa Helton testified on behalf of Fairmount Park. Tony Petrillo testified on behalf of Arlington Park. John Walsh testified on behalf of Hawthorne Race Course. Michael Campbell, David McCaffrey, and Chris Block testified on behalf of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. Tony Somone testified on behalf of the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association.

### **LICENSEE REQUEST**

Commissioner Reyes moved for approval of Hawthorne Race Course's request to amend their fall 2020 live race schedule. Racing on Sundays and dark on Thursdays. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote. John Walsh testified on behalf of Hawthorne Race Course. David McCaffrey testified on behalf of the Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association.

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### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Reyes motioned to approve the July 16, 2020 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Breuer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote.

### ADJOURMENT

At 12:35 p.m., Commissioner Sandberg moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0) by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Domenic DiCera". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Domenic DiCera  
Executive Director