

MICHIGAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION
Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 4, 2021

President Mike Huntoon called a Zoom meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:33 p.m. The following Directors and staff were present on the call: Jennifer Bluhm, Heather Coe, Tessa Dalton, Barb Foster, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Mike Huntoon, Rob Kirkpatrick, Danielle Lindsay, Monty Montgomery, Sarah Switek, Past President Kathy Christensen and Kris Woroniecki.

AGENDA: Barb Foster made a motion to approve the agenda. Monty Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

REVIEW OF MINUTES: Rob Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve the April 7, 2021 Board of Director minutes. Austin Gooding seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed. The following minutes from an April 22, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. Upon review, Rob Kirkpatrick made a motion to approve these minutes. Monty Montgomery seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

President Mike Huntoon called a Zoom meeting of the MQHA Board of Directors to order at 7:32 p.m. The following Directors were present on the call: Jennifer Bluhm, Heather Coe, Tessa Dalton, Barb Foster, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Mike Huntoon, Rob Kirkpatrick, Danielle Lindsay, Monty Montgomery, Sarah Switek. Kathy Christensen was also present.

AGENDA: Megan Hirschman made a motion to approve the agenda. Heather Coe seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

Megan Hirschman made a motion to appoint Tessa Dalton to the vacancy on the MQHA Board of Directors. Sasha Glover seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

Megan Hirschman discussed the status of show management search. Megan, Sasha and Barb worked through the proposals and compared numbers. There are additional questions for show management. An additional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 24. A motion to adjourn was made at 9:48 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Heather Coe presented the financial statements. The total assets of the Association as of April 30, 2021 are listed at \$525,884.17; the total liabilities at \$150,338.53 and the total members' equity is listed at \$375,545.64. The net income as of the end of April is listed at \$28,804.93 compared to -\$41,082.07 for the same period in 2020. Barb Foster made a motion to accept the April 2021 statement. Megan Hirschman seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kris Woroniecki presented the checks written report for April 2021. There were checks written totaling \$17,877.14 for the month. Barb Foster made a motion to approve the April check detail report. Austin Gooding seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Mike Huntoon stated that they are working through show management contract with TNT. Kris should be meeting with them soon. He is looking forward to the first horse show since we haven't had one in quite a while.

OFFICE REPORT: Kris Woroniecki and Kathy Christensen attended the visitation for Roger Hansen who passed away April 19. Sasha Glover made a motion to support the WMFA Building Fund in memory of Roger. Heather Coe seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CLINICS: Jen Bluhm and Sarah Switek were discussing holding a Ride the Pattern mini clinic at the first horse show. The hope is that they might be able to host one at each of the shows covering all the disciplines. Chris Baldwin has agreed to do a showmanship clinic on Friday night at the Summer Series. Jenny and Sarah will come back with more information at the next meeting.

FUTURITY: Mike Huntoon stated that it appears that the footing conditions are not up to the standards that the committee was hoping for to be able to host the Futurity at Owosso. The committee will need to meet and discuss how to move forward at the Pavilion.

HARBOR CLASSIC: Barb Foster stated almost all the awards are done for Harbor. The NSBA High Point is done. The Judges tent is reserved. She is starting to get some activities lined up. The dog races will be held one night. The bouncy horse race will be held one night. There will be additional activities planned. The give away items have been ordered. Barring any issues with COVID, the event is on schedule.

HARVEST CLASSIC: Danielle Lindsay mentioned that since MSU has intentions of being open by July 1, the committee can move forward with the November event.

QUEEN: Kathy is working on preparing for the princess contest currently. Lily Atkinson will represent us as our Queen for the 2021 Congress Queen's Contest.

RULES AND CONSTITUTION: Megan Hirschman and Jenny Bluhm will work on the Board Member Responsibility update.

SPARTAN SPECTACULAR: Barb Foster stated that the show is pretty much set. The High Points are ordered. Patterns are being discussed. First place prizes are being worked on. The judges tent has been ordered and will stay up from Spartan through the Harbor Classic.

SUMMER SERIES: Monty Montgomery stated that all the awards are taken care of. Rob Kirkpatrick has all the patterns taken care of and they should be posted soon. Sarah Switek has the exhibitor dinner under control. Rob discussed a sponsor for breakfast some mornings. Mary Wilkosz will provide donuts and drinks. The new stalls are being put up at the Midland Fairgrounds and that project should be complete by the time Summer Series runs.

YOUTH: Sasha Glover reported that the Youth held a meeting last Saturday. Everything is ready for Thayne Miner. Buckles are ordered. Bridle bags being embroidered. Letters of Intent were due May 1. There is quite a list of youth for both teams with several youth having multiple horses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Venue Support – There was discussion about the new proposed Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan in Lowell. This project will help support youth in Michigan. It will help MQHA recruit new membership and it is going to be a greatly needed covered facility where MQHA could host events. Kris is working with the Grand Agricultural Center people to collect information to possibly provide input on the new project.

Megan Hirschman made a motion that MQHA support the Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan (GACWM) with a pledge of up to \$75,000. Funds will be utilized to support a matching member donation campaign. Funds will be paid to the Grand Agricultural Center of West Michigan at \$7,500 per year over 10 years or at the discretion of the board based on financial health, possibly allowing MQHA to pay the pledge off sooner. The matching campaign will run for a duration of 18-24 months and will be promoted by both the GACWM and MQHA. Funds will be matched 1:1 and paid over the 10-year pledge period. Austin Gooding seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed. Supplemental Information: The contributions to the Grand are tax deductible. The anticipated date to break ground is September 2021 for a Kent County Fair in August of 2022.

Western Dressage – Kris shared the flyer for the western dressage. There has been some interest in the events and in the year end awards. It is being advertised in Saddle Up, on our FB page and on our website. A banner has also been ordered to be hung at Wyn Farm for the duration of the season.

Show Management Update: As a result of an email vote, Barb Foster made a motion to hire TNT Show Management starting with Harbor Classic for 2021 and 2022. Danielle Lindsay seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed. TNT is working to get the contract finalized. There will be a meeting the week of May 17. They seem excited to come to Michigan. Barb has given them the approximate dates for 2022.

Other Office Business: Kris Woroniecki addressed the board about rumors that are circulating regarding the office staff. Kris asked for discussion regarding any issues the board may have heard about so things could be discussed. Mike stated it is

imperative that Directors shut down negative talk when it is heard. It is the job of the Board to protect the integrity of the Association and it is important that the Directors do their part.

NEW BUSINESS:

National Director update – Chris Baldwin spoke to the board to update about the AQHA Convention. It was held in San Antonio. Craig Huffines has resigned. Chad Pierce is taking over temporarily. Committee highlights will be announced at another time. The financial position of AQHA is much better. The association is up \$18.1 million from 2018. Assets are \$43 million, up \$4.1 million from prior years. She will provide another report after AQHA is through approving everything. One rule change likely coming is regarding scoring equitation. There will be several rules that will likely be approved. Megan Hirschman asked about our loss of a National Director which is based on horse population within the state. Christa explained it for the Board. It is hoped that AQHA will re-evaluate the Michigan horse population in September. Chris will be elevated to Director at Large, so Michigan will have an opening for a National Director after next spring.

Mike Huntoon mentioned that Dutch Guthrie approached him about the MSU Pavilion moving forward with covering the outdoor pen. It is hoped that they can present some information to MQHA.

Mike brought forward a question from a member about NSBA approval for the Small Fry. Megan Hirschman made a motion to move forward and get information together about NSBA approval for this. Barb Foster seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed. Barb discussed the promotion of the NSBA Smart Points Program which pays well to those enrolled. Christa Baldwin stated that she will pull together a letter and put it in a packet of information to get it to the youth as well as getting the information to MQHA to put it on the MQHA website and FB page to alert members about how to get enrolled in the Smart Points Program.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:09 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection.

A special meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m. with the following directors in attendance: Jennifer Bluhm, Heather Coe, Tessa Dalton, Sasha Glover, Austin Gooding, Megan Hirschman, Mike Huntoon, Rob Kirkpatrick, Danielle Lindsay, Monty Montgomery, Sarah Switek, Past President Kathy Christensen and Kris Woroniecki.

It was moved that the MQHA Board of Directors does not see a conflict of interest if the Executive Secretary/Treasurer is hired to be show management for another entity or has a privately owned show outside of MQHA. Megan Hirschman moved, and Austin Gooding seconded the motion. Motion passed with none opposed.

In response to inquiries, the 2021 Show Management Guidelines and Procedures were reviewed and the MQHA Board is aware of the process for shows that are abandoned, following those procedures outlined below:

15. Requests to 'loan' or give show date(s) for a particular period of time

A. Dates are AQHA's, not an individual's to determine what to do with 'unused' dates

B. Once notified that a show will not be held, AQHA will flag those shows

C. AQHA will determine the best alternative for those 'dates' within the state

D. AQHA will distribute (or not) as necessary

E. AQHA will take into consideration the wishes of the party releasing the date(s), as well as any party requesting date(s) and the opinion of the State Affiliate

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:00 p.m. by unanimous consent without objection.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.