

Racing Committee Minutes
June 6, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Veitch; Supervisors A. Johnson, Richardson, Wood, Kinowski and Yepsen; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Skip Carlson, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway; Rita Cox, Saratoga Casino and Raceway Expansion.

Chairman Veitch called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Richardson the minutes of the May 9, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Veitch said there has been a recent change in the Casino Gambling bill for New York State.

Mr. Moore said the proposal is that if a Casino site has a VLT license, they would retain the VLT payments at their 2012 level and maintain racing activities and race dates. If the facility that is going to be the full Casino does not have a VLT license, there is a revenue sharing formula in place that would go to the nearest and next nearest track and also the State Breeding Funds. Mr. Moore said that the newspapers are stating that the State will take 25% of the profits as its tax, with 80% of that going to education, 10% for local host benefits and 10% for the surrounding municipalities, and a \$50 million up-front fee to get a license along with local law approval.

Mr. Carlson said 65% of the decision as to where the Casino is going to go will be based on Economic Activity and Business Development, 20% on local impact siting factors, most especially, local support of the destination and 15% on workforce and overall societal factors.

Mr. Carlson said there are a couple new initiatives that have been launched in racing with the introduction of a bill about New York Breeds. It is about trying to give NY Owned and Bred horses an advantage over non New York Breeds in terms of running races.

Mr. Carlson said there will be a free admission to Back to the Track Night which will be held on Friday, July 12th. The event will include \$1, pizza, hot dogs and soda, and T-Shirts will be given out along with prizes at the starting gate.

Mr. Carlson said with the new hotel and event center expansion it is expected that it will generate approximately \$1.7 million in additional purses for the harness horsemen. He said in 2003 the purses were \$3 million, and this year they are projected to be \$16 million, with the track going from 129 days of racing to 170 days of racing.

Ms. Cox gave a brief visual presentation of the Hotel Expansion and said that plans are underway with anticipation of being shovel ready by January or early spring of 2014, with the goal of being completed in the spring of 2015. It is expected that the project will generate

approximately 300 construction jobs and an additional 290 permanent or long term jobs. She said the goal of the complex is to be for entertainment, such as concerts, social gatherings, weddings, reunions, parties, etc., with the primary focus of bringing a gaming customer in.

Mr. Veitch said that NYRA had a recent announcement that Zendaya will perform a free concert at the opening day at the track. Mr. Richardson said this is the first concert at the track in 40 years.

On a motion made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Wood the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom