

Racing and Gaming Committee Minutes
February 1, 2018 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Art Johnson; Supervisors Jack Lawler, Paul Lent, Tara Gaston, Matt Veitch, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright and Chairman of the Board Ed Kinowski; Spencer Hellwig, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; William McCarthy, NYRA.

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

Mr. Johnson announced the appointment of Mr. Wright as the Committee Vice-Chair.

On a motion made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lawler the minutes of the September 7, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Veitch, seconded by Mr. Lent to support NYS Senate Bill S6753 and Assembly Bill A8489 to amend the racing, pari-mutuel wagering law in relation to the right to hold limited night racing at Belmont Park. Unanimous.

Mr. Johnson introduced William McCarthy, Assistant General Counsel for NYRA. Mr. McCarthy had previously addressed the committee in September 2017 with a recap of the Saratoga Summer meet and briefly discussed the night racing at Belmont Park proposal. If the night racing proposal is approved, racing could take place up to 10:30pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, at Belmont Park only. The bill passed the NYS Senate last year. The governor just recently put the proposal in his Executive Budget proposal. Senator Marchione is a co-sponsor of the Senate bill and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner is a co-sponsor of the Assembly bill. Mr. McCarthy said that the key to this proposal is to generate a larger fan base. In the New York City area all other sporting events are held at nighttime and this proposal will help generate a new fan base of younger people who work during the day.

Mr. McCarthy said that other tracks that offer limited night racing have seen an increase in attendance and on track wagering. Mr. McCarthy said that they have seen opposition to the proposal from Yonkers Raceway however there is a provision in the bill that would require NYRA to stagger their race times with Yonkers. NYRA has also worked with Yonkers with a NY-NY double. The New York Thoroughbred Horsemen, New York Thoroughbred Breeders, Capital OTB and other OTB's all support the bill.

Mr. McCarthy said that NYRA has publicly stated that they are looking to renovate Belmont Park. The last major renovation was in 1968. Renovations would focus on the Clubhouse.

Mr. McCarthy said that he can return prior to the Saratoga meet to give an update on capital projects.

On a motion made by Mr. Lent, seconded by Mr. Wright the meeting was adjourned unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese Connolly
Deputy Clerk of the Board