



Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission Meeting  
 April 17, 2018  
 San Agustin Kitchen

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>		<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Chair Ramirez	District 5	John Ochoa	District 4
Tim Kelly	District 3		
Ronnie Reyna	District 2		
James Collins	District 1		
			Catherine Strickland
			Jaye Wells
			Frank DeFazio

1. **Call to Order** –Chair Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM followed by the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Approval of Minutes**- Commissioner Kelly motioned to approve the minutes from the February 21, and March 12, Commissioner Reyna seconded, minutes approved.
3. **Status at Rillito Racetrack**-

- a. **Horse Barns**- Much discussion as to when the barns will be built. The grant monies from the Warden Foundation have been redirected to NRPR; who will use the money to repair the facility. They have put out an RFP for work on the barn of which there was a bid, which came in at over \$200,000, which was considered extremely high since the Vendor originally bid \$154,000. There will be a meeting the first week of May to see if the monies will be available for the barns or if the money will be utilized to repair the roof.
- b. **Legislative Action Update House Bill 2589**- Jaye Wells reported on HB 2589. This bill will reshuffle the Arizona Racing Commission. There will be four Commissioners representing horse racing and the fifth Commissioner who represents dog racing will be reassigned as the at- large Commissioner since dog racing has been discontinued in Arizona.

HB 2589 also adds \$200,000 in grants for rural county fair racing for smaller counties. Each county fair can ask for a \$40,000 match from ADOR. Pima County will not qualify since is one of the larger counties in the state. The Bill had been voted in the Senate and since it had a few small minor corrections, it has to go back to the House for correction and another vote.

- c. **ADW Churchill Downs Contract**- ADOR has asked for legal briefs and Rillito Foundation attorneys are working on getting them ready for the May ADOR Commission Meeting. There is much opposition from Turf Paradise. Mr. Wells will continue to attend the ADOR meetings and continue to report.
- d. **County Administrator CH Huckelberry April 11 Memo**- at the March 8 ADOR Commission meeting the need for backside lighting (barns) has was brought up by Greg Stiles. The back lighting is needed to run at night but will not affect the day racing.

County Administrator Huckelberry asked with the increase in profits for the 2018 racing season, would some of the monies be reinvested into the property? If the requirements of the current contract are not fulfilled, County Administrator Huckelberry will request the BOS to discontinue the contract. More to come at the May meeting after an update as to availability of the grant money.

4. **Update of 2018 Racing Season from Rillito Racing**- Jaye Wells reported this was a record setting season. Total wagering and gate increased by 33%. He passed out a comparison chart as of 2014. (chart attached)

Concession gross revenue was at a record high, the liquor revenue increased since changing from El Charro. Mr. Bear brought in professional bartenders who upsold the liquor and had much more on hand if needed. They also had the Clydsdales for a weekend, which increased the attendance. The overall revenue was up.

There will not be a charge for season holders for the tables, admission or parking for the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont.

Rillito Foundation will be helping Sonoita County with their horseracing this year. Mr. Wells got permission from ADOR to allow them to use their signal free of charge; Rillito is allowed dark days of which they will use for the Sonoita Racing Season. They will also be loaning them the horse ambulance, the tote board as well as some of the televisions and whatever else they might need to continue racing this season.

5. **PCFHRC Tax Exempt Status**- the Commission received a Certificate of Dissolution from the Corporation Commission due to their not submitting their annual report. The letter was dated March 19 and at this time they have 2 days to comply. There was some confusion as to who was supposed to send in the report the Commission or the Attractions & Tourism Department. Commissioner Kelly will attempt to get the report in ASAP. There will be an update at the May meeting.
6. **PCFHRC Financial Update**- of the original \$1000, \$900 was spent on buckles and \$60 for postage. Supervisor Miller and Chief Deputy County Administrator Jan Leshar donated \$100 each for purses that were distributed. Ortega Racing donated \$1,000; \$500 was donated to the Rillito Park Foundation and \$500 to the purses. There will be a full financial update at the May meeting.
7. **Moro De Cumpas Race Update**- it was difficult this year since the Maricopa County racers were quarantined and were unable to participate. They also got a late start on the fund raising, next year the fund-raising will begin earlier with the help of Commissioner Collins. Jaye Wells was very pleased with how well the race was attended.
8. **Call to the Public**- Jaye Wells commented Jack Goodman passed away April 16. Mr. Goodman was a founding member of the Commission; he will be greatly missed by the Horsemen Community.

Final inspection of the Jelks House went well. There will be an open house to honor the graduates of the U of A College of Racing. Mr. Wells will be sending out the invites.

9. **Adjournment**- Chairman Ramirez motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Reyna seconded, and meeting adjourned 5:50 PM.