



Pima County Fair Horseracing Commission Meeting
 February 21, 2018
 San Agustin Kitchen

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>		<u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>		
Chair Ramirez	District 5	John Ochoa	District 4	Hector Pinedo	Ray Felix
Ronnie Reyna	District 2			Diane Frisch	JoAnn DiFilippo
Tim Kelly	District 3			Scott Little	Aurora Hernandez
James Collins	District 1				

1. **Call to Order** –Chair Ramirez called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM followed by the pledge of allegiance.
2. **Welcoming and Introductions**- New Commissioner James Collins was introduced. He was appointed by District One Supervisor Miller to replace outgoing Commissioner Echerivel. He has been involved in racing 25 years at Rillito Park, Racing Secretary at the Downs in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as Sun Ray Park, and Arizona County Fair Secretary. He will be a great asset to the Commission.
3. **Approval of January 17, 2018 Minutes**- Chair Ramirez moved to accept the minutes of the January 17 meeting, Chair Ramirez motioned to approve, Commissioner Kelly seconded, minutes were approved.
4. **Clarification and Changes to assigned Pima County Fair Horse Racing Dates**- The Rillito Foundation requested the Fair Horseracing date of March 18 be changed to March 3 so entries in El Moro will only be required to have one workout. The PCFHRC, Pima County Board of Supervisors as well as the AZ Department of Racing (ADOR) approved the change. Fair Horseracing dates will be March 3 and 18.

There was discussion regarding the need to clarify the number of tryout days needed in AZ. Chair Ramirez will be checking with Greg Stiles from ADOR on clarification.

5. **Status of Rillito Barns**- Scott Little, Assistant General Manager – Rillito Racetrack reported the barns have not been finished and Rillito Racing is still attempting to get stalls and pens. The Pima County Fairgrounds has loaned 44 panels and 26 gates to help but they still need shading. Purchasing shadings is very expensive, so they will be trying other venues.

There have also been issues with water breaks and the sump pump; the County delivered several tons of sand in an attempt to dry up the track following the heavy rains.

6. **Update from Rillito Racing**- Scott Little, Assistant General Manager – Rillito Racetrack gave an update on the first weekend of racing. Mr. Little reported they had a good turnout of about 5,000 attendees for each day. There was a delay in the food service; PC Health Department did their inspection the first day of the racing season, which caused a backup in the kitchen.

Joanne di Fillipo stated the standing water from the horse washing station area was still an issue.

Turf Paradise is under quarantine. Horses can come in but not leave. Local horsemen are filling in the gaps left by the quarantined horses to assure there is a full racing schedule at Rillito.

There were some protesters at the meet. South Tucson Police Officers were present and made sure protesters were not in the street or blocking the entrance.

7. **El Moro de Cumpas Committee**- Chair Ramirez reported the Committee is on track and will have a significant amount of funding for at least three heats. Ms. di Fillipo stated there seems to be a delay in getting the “book” posted on Equibase, which is causing issues on the fund raising as well as signing up the racers. She asked Mr. Little what was the delay. Commissioner Collins stated considering there are only 12 racing days there should not be a problem in posting.

Ms. di Fillipo asked Commissioner Kelly how he would recommend the Moro entry monies be handled. Commissioner Kelly stated it should go to the Rillito Foundation; they are a 501C-3. Ms. di Fillipo stated there were issues in paying the purse three years ago; it took several months before the \$50,000 purse was paid; just 24 hours before a lawsuit was filed.

Ms. Di Filipo asked where the money that is in check format for sponsorship or donation; should the checks be made to Rillito Park Foundation or Rillito Racing Inc.? Ms. di Fillipo asked since the PCFHRC is also a 501C-3 shouldn't the monies go to them, they are the ones sponsoring the race. If they give the monies to the PCFHRC they will need to file 1099. Commissioner Kelly stated that anyone who contributes to a 501C-3 would get a tax credit.

Chair Ramirez stated in Douglas they collected the monies thru the Moro Foundation and then they gave the check to the track in Douglas. He suggested things be left as is until after more discussions with the Moro Foundation.

8. **New Business**- Future meeting venues. Commissioner Reyna reported the only venue available at this time is the library but they must be out by 6PM; this would make the meeting begin earlier which is not good for the Chair. The meetings will continue at the Kitchen until further notice. Commissioner Reyna will be contacting someone at the Kitchen to see if a better rate is available in the future. At this time, the meetings will continue at the San Agustin Kitchen.
9. **Call to the Public**- Chair Ramirez questioned as to whether Marcos Flores would be replaced by Paul Bear as the liquor agent on site. Chair Ramirez has not received any paperwork to be submitted to the Department of Liquor for the change. There will be further discussion with Mr. Wells when he returns from out of state. Ms. di Fillipo suggested the PCFHRC get a copy of the paperwork for their records.

Commissioner Reyna thanked the County for the sand that was delivered to the track to assist with the water leak. The cost will be split between NRPR, Attractions and Tourism and the PCFHRC.

Commissioner Collins was contacted by Jim Lewis from Sonoita, regarding Brent Hill who is attempting to make fair horseracing simulcast statewide. No one had additional information on this subject.

Ms. di Fillipo reported Greenlee County has applied for Fair Horseracing dates for Turf Paradise for 2018 and 2019. They have requested four days for each year. Ms. di Fillipo states Greenlee County does not even run races and Yuma County does not have a track anymore, even though they are requesting dates and locking them up for the future. They lock up those race dates and she believes the PCFHRC should check into this.

10. **Motion to Adjourn**- Chair Ramirez motioned to adjourn at 5:45 PM. Commissioner Kelly seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting March 21. Commissioner Reyna will be contacting the Kitchen to see if they can get a better rate in the future. At this time, the meetings will continue at the San Agustin Kitchen.