



PIMA COUNTY FAIR HORSE RACING COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES



February 17, 2021
Rillito Clubhouse

Quorum having been established, Chair Reyna called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm on February 17, 2021.

Commissioners present were Ronnie Reyna, Chair, James Collins and Geronimo Ramirez. Russell True and John Ochoa were absent. Also present were Mike Weiss (Rillito Racetrack General Manager), Claudia Alvarez (RTIP), and Danny Hernandez (Horseman).

Staff present were Martina Gonzales and Ann Khambholja.

Those present recited the pledge of allegiance.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Ramirez and seconded by Commissioner Collins to approve the November 18, 2020, minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

1. Update on County Fair Racing outside of Pima County (Jim Collins): Commissioner Collins gave an update of County Fair Racing outside Pima County. He informed the commission that most racing was cancelled due to the pandemic and that there was no budget funds available for the Sonoita Fair, and that there was no more racing to be held this year. Mr. Danny Hernandez asked whether he could look into other counties who could run their dates here.
2. Update of Pima County Fair Horse Racing (PCFHRC) (Mike Weiss) Mr. Mike Weiss, now a Guidance Counselor at the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program, is working with the County on an extension of the Rillito Racing contract. He has asked for April dates, or maybe in October/November 2021 depending on the situation. He said he is focusing on the extension of the contract. An audience member asked how they could be informed of the racing dates in the future. Chair Reyna asked for all the attendees' information so he could keep them updated. There were some questions about SB 1794 which would allow historic race wagering to be allowed at eligible racetracks that feature commercial live horse racing.

3. PCFHRC Business (Ronnie Reyna) Chair Reyna informed them that in future, meetings will be held at 4:00 pm at the NRPR office at 3500 W River Road. Mr. Hernandez and the approximately 20 horsemen present objected to the change in venue and time, and also the fact that meetings may be less frequent. Chair Reyna informed him that he would speak to NRPR management about this. An audience member asked about conducting night racing as is done on some tracks and another asked whether the Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association (HBPA) would help. An audience member asked that communication between the commission and the horsemen be improved. Chair Reyna informed him that that was the reason he had asked all the attendees for their names and contact information. The horsemen want racing and year-round training.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the commission, duly motioned and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.