

**NEW JERSEY RACING COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017
RACING COMMISSION OFFICE
140 EAST FRONT STREET, 8th FLOOR
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

A meeting of the New Jersey Racing Commission was held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017 in the Racing Commission office located at 140 East Front Street in Trenton, New Jersey.

The following were present:

Pamela J. Clyne, Chairman
Peter J. Cofrancesco, III, Commissioner
John A. Hoffman, Commissioner
Francis X. Keegan, Jr., Commissioner
Peter T. Roselle, Commissioner
Frank Zanzuccki, Executive Director
SDAG George Cohen

The following were absent:

Anthony T. Abbatiello, Commissioner
Michael J. Arnone, Commissioner

Executive Director Frank Zanzuccki read the following statement:

“This meeting today conforms with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, called the “Open Public Meetings Act,” and as per the requirements of the statute, notification of this meeting has been filed with the Secretary of State and with the following newspapers: Daily Racing Form, Bergen Record, Asbury Park Press, Courier-Post and the Newark Star Ledger.

Executive Director Zanzuccki noted for the record that Commissioner Cofrancesco, Commissioner Hoffman, Commissioner Keegan, Commissioner Roselle and Chairman Clyne were participating by telephone. He also acknowledged and welcomed Commissioner Hoffman to the Commission.

CONSIDER THE PETITION OF DARBY DEVELOPMENT, LLC, ON BEHALF OF THE THOROUGHBRED HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION (PERMIT HOLDER) TO MODIFY THE THOROUGHBRED RACE DATES AT MONMOUTH PARK AND THE NEW MEADOWLANDS RACETRACK AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION FOR 2017

William Knauf, Vice President of Darby Development, LLC, explained to the Commission the reasons for the request. He indicated that Monmouth Park has to remain competitive in order to draw the horsemen that the racetrack desires. To put on the best product possible for the racing public, it was necessary to reduce the race dates to 50 which is the ideal number of days at Monmouth Park. He stated that 21 dates were shifted to the New Meadowlands Racetrack with a lesser purse structure to focus on the core season at Monmouth Park which is May 13 through September 10.

The Executive Director asked what the purse structure will be on a daily basis. Michael Musto, Executive Director of the NJTHA, responded for the Monmouth Park meet, they are anticipating the overnights on the daily average to be \$250,000 to \$270,000 which, in addition to the stakes program, will result in purses of \$330,000 to \$340,000. The Executive Director asked how these purse amounts compare to last year's purses. Mr. Musto indicated that last year's purses were \$280,000 for the overnights which, in addition to the stakes program, resulted in \$364,000 for the daily purses. The Executive Director asked if this request to reduce the dates was approved by the NJTHA and Mr. Musto indicated that the Board approved the request at the March meeting.

Commissioner Hoffman inquired about the elimination of the June 2 and September 1 dates as they are not surrounding a holiday. Mr. Knauf responded that, historically, it has been a strain to get horses to race four days a week. As concerns the June 1 date, a number of horses have not yet shipped up from the south which resulted in a strain on Monmouth's racing product. Mr. Knauf explained that over the past few years, Monmouth Park has experienced a large decrease in the number of horses and races on the Fridays prior to the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. By adding the fourth day during the same week, it puts more of a strain on the following Friday. He added that when Monmouth dropped a couple of races per day, the handle decreased significantly. To avoid that this year, the racetrack decided to remove those days so the focus can be on just the weekend. Mr. Knauf stated that the Friday on June 2 is the worst day of the entire meet for handle and the Friday prior to Labor Day had the lowest handle for all of the September dates.

Commissioner Keegan asked how many horses are scheduled to race this year. Michael Musto responded approximately 1,200 horses as compared to last year which was in the area of 1,100 to 1,150 horses.

Chairman Clyne questioned whether the New Meadowlands has approved this request and it was noted that the racetrack did not file any opposition or support with Monmouth Park or the Commission.

Commissioner Keegan made a motion to approve the request to modify the thoroughbred race dates at Monmouth Park and the New Meadowlands Racetrack. Chairman Clyne seconded the motion and all Commissioners voted yes.

There being no further discussion or comments from the public, Commissioner Keegan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chairman Clyne seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ATTEST:



Executive Director Frank Zanzuccki