

SARATOGA GAMING AND RACEWAY FOUNDATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

June 21, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT AT MEETING: Skip Carlson, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, Supervisor Thomas Wood, Supervisor Joanne Yepsen and George Karam, Saratoga Harness Horseperson's Association

ABSENT FROM MEETING: Harry G. Gutheil, Jr., Chair, Saratoga County Board of Supervisor and Mark Rider, County Attorney

By-laws and current Grant application were passed out for review.

Mr. Carlson stated that we did receive some application from outside the County last year. We need to put out the word that this is a Saratoga County organization.

Mr. Carlson stated that organizations applied for \$80,000, \$50,000 and \$25,000.

Supervisor Yepsen suggested that we give the applicants more of a range or guideline on the amount to request.

Mr. Karam stated that there was something in the By-laws regarding that. Mr. Carlson stated that last year we pretty much came to the conclusion that we were going to try to spend about 70% of the money.

Supervisor Wood stated that we should provide support to a greater number of applications rather than higher amounts for a very few, depending on the proposal.

Mr. Carlson said, absolutely the more organizations that we can touch with this, the better. Interestingly enough, probably the spearhead of this was problem gambling. We didn't have any applications from them, so we couldn't award them any money. Mr. Karam stated that he thinks the problem was that there was no problem gambling organization set up in the County. Supervisor Yepsen said, probably the closest would be the Prevention Council of Saratoga County. Supervisor Yepsen asked how the decisions were made? Mr. Carlson said that we sat down and went over each one and then the five of us made the decision. Supervisor Wood asked if we negotiated down. Mr. Carlson stated that we did, if someone asked for three or four things we would pick one program that we thought would be applicable.

Supervisor Wood suggested that as we evaluate the applications maybe we could keep a score sheet to give it a little structure so that over time the same organization aren't receiving the money, we want to spread this around. Supervisor Yepsen suggested that maybe the same organization doesn't get a grant every year.

Mr. Carlson said that we also discussed having other groups give donations.

Supervisor Yepsen asked if there is any timeframe in mind, so that we could give them a time frame as to when they should apply by. Mr. Karam stated that last year we were rushed because we had to get all the legal work done first.

Mr. Carlson stated that he could publicize the application on their website and on the track program.

Mr. Carlson said we did not do a good job getting the word out last year. We did get a couple of Press Releases out to the Saratogian. We weren't sure how many applications we were going to get.

Supervisor Yepsen asked what would the ideal timeframe be in terms of announcing the grant, the deadline for them to apply and the deadline for us to make the decision. Mr. Karam stated that we gave them a very short period of time last year. Mr. Carlson recommended that we announce in early August or right after Labor Day and we could give the organizations 45 days, having applications due by October 15th. That would give everyone a couple of weeks to look at the application and then we could have a meeting early November. A nice time to announce these grants is the time between Thanksgiving and the first of the year. Mr. Karam stated that last year we closed it on October 31.

Mr. Carlson asked how everyone felt about announcing the Grant in August or do you feel that we are better off waiting until the time period between Labor Day and the beginning of the school year. Supervisor Wood stated that he thinks just after Labor Day or September 1 is a good time to start it because in August you are going to miss a lot groups. Supervisor Yepsen said that by the end of August people are settling back into the community most non-profit boards are starting to meeting again, they may not meet in August, they probably will be meeting definitely in September. Working with non-profits I find that cycle all the time that January and September non-profits are really getting their acts together.

If we announce towards the end of August, it might take a couple of announcements actually, stated Supervisor Yepsen. Mr. Carlson said, we could give them until October 15th or something like that and we would announce a decision by December 1st.

Supervisor Wood stated that it seemed very reasonable and that the application has got to be relatively simple and somewhat easy to do and yet complete enough so we know what their doing. Did they submit just the application last year? No, said Mr. Karam most of them came with cover letters and backup explaining what their organization was about.

Supervisor Yepsen suggested that we give the applicants some guidelines about the criteria and if they have questions whom should they contact. We should give them a range of how much we have available. Mr. Carlson said we could set a maximum of \$5,000, we don't have to award it all but we should at least say it. Supervisor Wood said that would be 10% of what we have to give. I think it is helpful to applicants to have at

least a ballpark number so that we don't have applicants thinking that they have to request \$100,000 that is just so far out of it. Mr. Carlson said that we had people do that last year. Supervisor Yepsen asked if that was a problem when you were going through the applications. Mr. Carlson said that those people basically got shot down because they were so unreasonable in their requests. Supervisor Yepsen stated that they just had to know an idea of what you were looking for. Mr. Karam said he thought we had mentioned it but he doesn't think we put it in the application last year. The problem is if you say the grants are only available up to \$5,000 and they only get \$500 they may come back and say you told me \$5,000. I don't know if you are setting any expectations by stating a figure said Supervisor Yepsen. Supervisor Wood said the approach might be that the goal would be to support the greatest number of applications possible and that would set the message that one group is not going to get it all. Supervisor Yepsen stated that it might be good just to give the overall amount that we are awarding and then indicate that we are going to try to support as many projects as possible.

Mr. Carlson stated that the deadlines for application is October 31st and applicants will be notified of Board action and the funds distributed by the end of December. Mr. Karam stated that we said our fiscal year is the same as the calendar year. Supervisor Wood said that we would need to get these funds distributed by the end of the fiscal year. It doesn't say on the cover letter that the application is available on the website address. Supervisor Yepsen asked how did they retrieve the actual application last year. Mr. Carlson said that he sent applications out. The statement that was used last year was as follows. (Grant applications can be obtained from board members, printed off the website or by writing to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors).

Supervisor Yepsen asked how the applicants heard who was awarded the grants and for how much? Mr. Carlson stated that we sent an acceptance or rejection letter to each applicant. Supervisor Wood asked if there was any press release at the end stating which organizations received a grant to get credit for the work you had done. Mr. Karam stated that we were going to but the Track ended up doing the same thing on their own and we didn't want it to get confusing. Supervisor Yepsen asked if that was going to happen again this year. Mr. Carlson stated that he doesn't know. Supervisor Wood asked if the feeling was that in comparison to the larger amounts that they gave out ours looked skimpy or we just didn't want to compete or confuse people. Mr. Karam said that the problem was that we have similar names. They are Saratoga Gaming and Raceway and we are Saratoga Gaming and Raceway Foundation, Inc. Mr. Carlson said that we should post them on the website or send out a press release.

Mr. Carlson stated that at the next meeting we should elect officers and then send out some kind of Press Release stating the officers and that the application is available on the website. If we meet on Wednesday, July 19th at 12:00 the items on the Agenda would be: 1. Election of officers. 2. Review 2005 requests and rewards. 3. Review the application. 4. Set deadlines. 5. Look at the website access. By this time I should have filed our tax return, we received a 120 day extension.

Mr. Carlson stated that we should elect officers by July 19th and Supervisor Gutheil needs to be here for that. The time and place of each regular meeting shall be fixed by the Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Notice of time and place should be given to each director at least 10 days before the selected date. Does Supervisor Gutheil have to do that? Under Section 7, Article 3 of the By-laws.

Mr. Carlson said that we can meet on Wednesday, July 19th and that would be our first official meeting. I will send out an Agenda that will be 1. Election of officers. 2. Review of the 2005 requests and rewards. 3. Review of the application process. 4. Set deadlines. 5. Website access. 6. Report on our tax return. Supervisor Yepsen suggested that we do a publicity plan and an announcement of the awards.

Mr. Carlson stated that we could meet on the 19th of July for the Election of Officers and then have a meeting prior to sending out the application notices. Mr. Karam said we could decide that at the next meeting. Mr. Carlson said we should meet before we release this information. If we release it in earlier September it would give people 45 days which will be right to the end of October and that gives us six weeks to award. Tentative meeting dates are September 13th to release everything and say that the deadline would be November 1st. On November 29th decide on the awards. Announce awards on December 6th.

First official meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.