

SARATOGA GAMING AND RACEWAY FOUNDATION, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

**MARCH 29, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT AT MEETING:** George “Skip” Carlson, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway; Matthew Veitch, Supervisor-Saratoga Springs; Barry Segel, President, Saratoga Harness Horsepersons Association, Inc. and Mark M. Rider, Saratoga County Attorney-Counsel to the Board

**ABSENT FROM MEETING:** Willard H. Peck, Chairman-Saratoga County Board of Supervisors and Scott T. Johnson, Mayor-Saratoga Springs

Mr. Rider called the meeting to order. Mr. Veitch made a nomination for Mr. Rider to run the meeting until officers are elected.

Mr. Veitch stated that we have five board members for officers; we have a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Veitch stated that we usually pick our officers first and that is basically it for the year, every year that changes, or not, depending on what we decide to do in going forward. Mr. Veitch stated that two of the members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, myself and the Chair of the Board, who is Bill Peck. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is always appointed and then they pick another supervisor out of the twenty-two other supervisors to be on the Board. Mr. Veitch said that this was actually his third year in a row being appointed. The City of Saratoga Springs gets a representative from City Government, in this case the past three years it has been Mayor Scott Johnson and then Saratoga Gaming and Raceway and the Horseman’s Association both get one appointee. That is our Board and then we pick the four positions.

Mr. Carlson asked if we do all the nominating or just a slate of officers. Mr. Veitch asked if everyone wanted to do it that way and everyone was in agreement. Mr. Veitch asked Mr. Segel if he was interested, and he replied no. Mr. Carlson stated to Mr. Segel that him attending the meeting is huge; at least he could go back and tell his folks who applied for the grant. Mr. Carlson said that in the first year he thinks the Horseman gave \$25,000 and then you cut it back to \$10,000 and the last three years it has been \$5,000 but I think you have given us \$5,000 and you also gave the Cornell Cooperative Extension \$5,000. Mr. Carlson stated to Mr. Segel that he would like him to be part of the process when we give the grants out. Mr. Carlson said that we have a process where we get together and he stated that he thinks last year we gave \$28,000 in grants or something like that, so you can be a part of that process and you can help us solicit grants if you have foundations or charities that the Horseman would like to support. Mr. Veitch said that the truth is that the City and the County have kind of taken the lead on that for the past few years because we haven’t really had a huge input from the Horseman’s side, so I think that it is great that you are here and if you are coming to the meetings then that is awesome.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Veitch stated to Mr. Segel that the last slate that we had for the Board was that he was the Chairman and has been so for two years, Mayor Scott Johnson was the Vice Chair, Art Johnson who was the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors last year was the Secretary and Skip Carlson has been the Treasurer for two years. Mr. Rider stated that this has been helpful because Mr. Carlson is around all the time and most of the money comes from his organization. Mr. Carlson stated that the money is a flow through, the money comes in and we cut the checks in October and we distribute the checks pretty much in November early December and the only other checks that we write are for any accounting needs that we have and the Spa.Net website. Mr. Rider said that we have to file tax returns to get an account to do that and they are the only expenses we have and the rest of the money is grant money. Mr. Carlson said that we publicize that we are soliciting grants in the local papers and it is right online the process that they can go through. Mr. Veitch said that, basically, this meeting we will do some of that and after this meeting he will go ahead and send a Media Release out to say who the people are on the Board and also who we chosen for our officers just so people know, it is like a reminder again to people who got grants last fall that we are still here. Mr. Veitch stated that he thinks this time around what he would like to do if we decide on this slate is figure out our dates right now because there was some confusion on that last year. Mr. Carlson said that we have to get them corrected on the website because everyone can go to [www.saratogagamingandracewayfoundation.org](http://www.saratogagamingandracewayfoundation.org) and get all the information, when the dates are, the application and what our mission statement is, everything is right on that site.

Mr. Carlson purposed that the slate of officers would be:

Matthew Veitch, Chairman  
Mayor Scott Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Bill Peck, Secretary  
Skip Carlson, Treasurer  
Barry Segel, fifth member at large

Mr. Rider entertained a motion that Mr. Segel cast a vote for the ballot as nominated.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

Mr. Veitch stated that he received thank you letters from a couple of organizations describing what they spent the money.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Veitch gave Mr. Carlson the last two bank statements that he received. Mr. Carlson stated that the balance is \$4,946.29. Mr. Carlson said that we try to keep about \$4,000 to \$5,000 in there in case something comes up, if someone needs a grant we can make grants but for all intensive purposes I don't think we have ever done that. Mr. Veitch said that last year was one of the only times we actually voted on something after we were done, just one organization that we kind of went back and forth on and we wound up giving them a grant.

Mr. Segel asked what you would have to do to be eligible for a grant. Mr. Veitch said that you must primarily operate in Saratoga County and you have to be a 501c3. Actually we figured that out last year a not-for-profit so you could be a 501c4 and still get the grant which is just a little bit different but not-for-profit organizations and essentially we try to focus on organizations that would deal with problem gambling, social issues, elderly, youth and recreation. Mr. Carlson stated that they are in our By-Laws. Mr. Veitch said yes, they are written right in our By-Laws as to what we try to fund. If we think it's worthwhile we kind of go for it, there are a few that are borderline but we will fund them anyway as long as they are not-for-profit and we will fund them if we as a committee agree that we should do this, this year. Mr. Veitch stated that there are far more turndown letters, I think, than there are approvals and in this type of economy we have been getting more, like last year we got a lot more applications than we usually do. Mr. Rider asked, what was the number grants that they usually do. Mr. Carlson stated that there was about fifteen to twenty. Mr. Carlson stated that last year we got about thirty-five requests. Mr. Carlson said that he thinks the minimum we gave was about \$1,000 except for someone who only asked us for \$500 and we gave them that, but for the most part the grants go from \$1,000 maybe a high of \$5,000. Mr. Carlson said that he thinks last year we had three different ones that received \$1,000, a \$2,500 grant and a \$5,000 grant. Mr. Veitch said that we did do that and any amounts in between so if they only wanted \$1,100 we helped them out and then again that is something that we talk about every year as to how we want to do that because some years not so much as last year, some years before that there was some \$10,000 grants and a lot less people getting grants but higher value and then other years like the last couple of years we have done a lot lower value grants and not real big ones. When we sit down in the fall and talk about the applications that come in we can decide how we want to go and again I think it all depends on how we feel as a group. Mr. Veitch said that a lot of organizations apply year after year, is that a good or a bad thing, I think we are going to talk about that in the future. Mr. Rider said that we do kind of look for specific things as opposed to simply, we need money and we're an organization. There is usually some specific project or something they are working on, building a building, whatever, there are a lot of different types of things but there is focused need as opposed to just a general need for an organization. Mr. Carlson added that they may need a piece of equipment that they haven't been able to purchase or they want a specific program. The Prevention Council has come up with different programs that we have funded and we have funded some Christmas gifts for kids. Mr. Carlson said that the whole genesis of this program was that when we were going to the County for them to approve us to have VLTs one of our promises was that we would start this foundation to handle problems created by compulsive gambling and that kind of thing, so those organizations are kind of preferred status and sometimes the don't apply and there is nothing we can do to make them apply. Mr. Veitch stated that the truth is, that the other part of that too is one of those things we have been taking about over the last few years and we are kind of getting there, I think, in my opinion is one of the rules for a person who receives the grant is that they have to write us a report of what they spent the money on as part of their eligibility for year after year or if they want to apply for the following year. Mr. Veitch said that we have been 50/50 on following up on it and making sure that they give us the report and some don't and they have gotten grants on multiple years and that is one of the things that we have

kind of been trying to focus on. If you give somebody \$2,000 a year you want to make sure we know what they are spending it on.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mr. Veitch stated that he thinks we should set a schedule for this year.

Mr. Veitch set the dates for the application process as follows:

- Applications accepted starting September 8
- Application deadline is October 20
- Foundation Board will act on Grant applications by November 5
- Decision will be made on November 16
- Award presentation will be on November 16 at 4:00 at  
The Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Meeting

Mr. Veitch said the Board meeting is Tuesday, November 16 at 4:00 at the County. The whole Board coming would be great usually Skip is there and Scott came one time and the Chairman of the Board is always there and I am always there because we are County representatives and it is our meeting. Mr. Rider said that you usually get press coverage from that. Mr. Veitch said that we do get some press coverage, we do a Press Release that night saying who got what grants and we talk about the program a little bit more. Plus, on the open date in September we send a Media Release out to say the grants are open and here is the schedule because it is once a year so that the folks that apply look for it but they are not always right on the website. Mr. Veitch said that almost all of the recipients show up.

Mr. Veitch asked Mr. Segel for information for the website. Mr. Veitch will give website changes to Spa.Net.

Mr. Veitch asked if the Charities registration every got done? Mr. Carlson said, no it was in motion. Mr. Carlson said that hopefully by the next meeting we will have something. Mr. Veitch asked if we have to do a tax filing. Mr. Carlson said, yes we do.

Mr. Carlson said that he needs the Conflict of Interest. Mr. Veitch said that Mayor Johnson is working on it and he will ask him for it. Mr. Veitch said that once we receive the Conflict of Interest changes we have to put it into our By-laws and redo the By-laws.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Veitch asked if there was any new business to come before the Foundation. There was no further business to discuss.

**On a motion made by Mr. Carlson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Segel the meeting was adjourned.  
Unanimous**