

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: January 19, 2024  
TIME: 1:30 PM  
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting Via Webex

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

Dennis P. Lee Chairman  
Janell Beveridge Commissioner  
Shane Greckel Vice Chairperson  
Jeffrey Galyen Commissioner  
Shelby Bakenhus Commissioner  
Tony Fulton Commissioner  
Chris Stinson Commissioner

ABSENT:

Two public members, including Commissioner Tony Fulton, were present in person at the Racing and Gaming Commission Office at 3401 Village Dr., STE 100, Lincoln NE. Those present via Webex were made a part of the record. Chm. Lee convened the meeting at 1:32 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition, copies of such notice were sent to those on the Racing and Gaming Commission agenda mailing list. A notification was given to the public of the open meetings law and notification of its location for public view.

ELECTION OF RACING COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2024

Beveridge nominated Lee to serve as Chairman with Stinson seconding. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried. Galyen nominated Greckel as the Vice Chairperson with Bakenhus seconding. Voting Aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Abstain: Greckel. Motion carried.

An announcement was made to inform the industry that Tom Sage will be on medical leave until March 11, 2024, and that Mr. Sage has also retired effective March 11, 2024. Chairman Lee moved, seconded by Greckel to accept the medical leave and retirement for Mr. Sage. Voting aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

Chairman Lee moved, seconded by Galyen to appoint Casey Ricketts as Acting Executive Director. Voting aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION STAFF FOR 2024

Casey Ricketts read the list of staff into record and Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the commission staff for 2024 as amended. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Greckel moved, seconded by Fulton to approve the November Meeting Minutes. Beveridge moved, seconded by Lee to approve the November, December 2023 Financial Reports. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

SIMULCAST APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to approve all applications submitted. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### MARKET STUDY DISCUSSION

Tom Zitt of the Innovation Group appeared, and a discussion was held. The Commission received several letters in response to the study and a question-and-answer discussion occurred. Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to appoint two committee members to work with staff on either supplementing the study from The Innovation Group or conducting a different study. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### HARRAH'S NEBRASKA AND COLUMBUS EXPOSITION & RACING

Bob Herr gave a construction update. Progress is going well with a proposed opening date of May 1, 2024. Lee moved, seconded by Galyen, to approve a transfer of Columbus Exposition and Racing License from Ag Park to 5944 Howard Blvd., effective on the opening day of the permanent casino. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve a request to transfer Harrah's Nebraska, LLC license from Ag Park to 5944 Howard Blvd., effective on the opening day of the permanent casino. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### WARHORSE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Lynn McNally spoke on behalf of Keith Kilpatrick on the construction of both Lincoln and Omaha facilities.

### SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

Beveridge moved, seconded by Greckel to ratify, and approve the additions presented by staff. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### HASTINGS EXPOSITION & RACING (HER)

Brian Jorde, attorney for HER, presented to the Commission and requested approval of HER's application to move its racing license to Keith County. No action was taken.

### GRAND ISLAND CASINO RESORT

Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to ratify the approval made by staff of GICR to modify hours of operation during a short period of time over the holidays. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### DIRECTIVES

Galyen made a correction to Directive 19-24 changing the reference year date from 2022 to the current racing season. Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to approve the directives with that correction. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

### NRGC IT PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS

Aaron Courtright, IT Director currently utilizing Diligent Board collaboration tool for commissioners' meetings, Crime Soft utilized for Investigators to report and track evidence, upgraded Licensing Database, and upgrading the NRG website. Discussion was held; for updated informational purposes only. No motion was carried.

### PAUL BAUER – PROPOSAL FOR CASINO IN FREMONT

David Bracht, of KRG Investment Group, gave a presentation on his group's interest in a possible racetrack and casino in Fremont, Nebraska, for informational purposes.

### FONNER PARK – APPROVAL OF 2024 FONNER PARK OFFICIALS TO NRG AND HBPA

No changes on officials. Beveridge moved, seconded by Stinson to approve the proposed list of Officials. Voting Aye: Lee, Greckel, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton, Stinson. Motion carried.

#### MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders' Association - Zach Mader announced the annual meeting on February 17th @11am in the Breeders' Office and the future banquet.

Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association- no report

Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Nebraska Quarter Horse Breeders Association- no report  
Thoroughbred Racing Associations of Nebraska- Mark Landis made no report

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer Dam, Planning Director for the City of Fremont, Jody Sanders, City Administrator for the City of Fremont, and Jessica Kolterman, The Greater Fremont Development Counsel Board President, commented on the proposal for a racetrack and casino in Fremont.

Brian Jorde, of HER, and Lance Morgan, of WarHorse Casino, commented on the market study discussion.

#### DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director, Casey Ricketts, asked to forego the director update and postpone until the next meeting.

Diane Osterloo gave updates on the next Commission Meeting taking place Friday, February 23, 2024, @ 12:30 pm in the Bosselman Building at Fonner Park in Grand Island.

Shane Greckel discussed LB685. Lori Holman with Senator Lowe's office provided an update on LB685 and Amendment 2035.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm

The next Commission Meeting will take place Friday, February 23, 2024, @ 12:30 pm in the Bosselman Building at Fonner Park in Grand Island.