

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: February 23, 2024
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: Fonner Park
Bosselman Conference Center, Rooms 4 and 5
700 E Stolley Park Rd, Grand Island NE 68803

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

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

ABSENT:

OPEN MEETINGS ACT NOTIFICATION

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 12:38 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on February 10, 2024. 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.

Chairman Lee introduced several new Commission employees. Chairman Lee acknowledged the live audio recording along with an announcement of live-stream video/audio recordings in future meetings.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

It was moved by Beveridge, seconded by Fulton to approve the meeting minutes from January 19, 2024. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Greckel to approve the January 2024 financial reports. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SIMULCAST APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

In addition, the Fonner Park Simulcast started an export to the country of Peru and no Export Exhibit A was given before the start of the meeting. Mark Landis read this exhibit from his phone, and it was added after the meeting adjourned.

It was moved by Beveridge, seconded by Greckel to approve the import and export of the Fonner Park Simulcast. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

No change was given, and it was moved by Fulton, seconded by Bakenhus to approve the Horsemen's Park Simulcast. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

No change was given, and it was moved by Lee, seconded by Beveridge to approve the Legacy Down's Park Simulcast. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

No change was given, and it was moved by Greckel, seconded by Bakenhus to approve the Columbus Simulcast. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the additions and one deletion from the Sports Wagering Catalog. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

HASTINGS EXPOSITION AND RACING (HER)

Present were Cynthia Smith, President of Hastings Exposition and Racing, Sharon Hasselhoff with Elite Casino and Resort, and Ryan Decker with HER, requested comments toward construction and approval during the next Commission Meeting while continuous bi-weekly meetings with Casey Ricketts on all updates. Information purposes only no motion carried.

HASTINGS EXPOSITION AND RACING (DBA FAIRPLAY PARK)

It was moved by Galyen, seconded by Greckel to approve the live racing date of April 18, 2024, running 2 races. Galyen's approval requests to waive the requirement of two cameras while approving all other requests. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

HEARING-JAKE MCGOVERN REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR A RACING LICENSE

Jake McGovern speaking in person requested to have a plater and exercise rider license reinstated and the chance to apply for future racing licenses. Steve Anderson and Scott Greenwalt speaking as Lead Investigators on this case. Casey Ricketts added her support to Director Tom Sage's recommended refusal of approval. Lee moved, and Galyen seconded to deny the request for any racing license for the foreseeable future. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

QART HEARING BOARD (QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW TEAM)-HEARING BOARD TO BE CREATED BY THE COMMISSION

Ryan Forrest and Casey Ricketts represented as lead contributors requesting a go-between team to cushion the responsibilities of the commission. Lee requests revisions to the QART team proposal. Fulton moves, and Greckel seconds to approve the QART Team. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

CHANGE TO DIRECTIVE 02-24 JOCKEY MOUNT FEES

Wally Wollesen and Lynne McNally are lead speakers requesting jockey fees be increased. It was moved by Lee and seconded by Bakenhus to approve the increase in jockey fees which will go into effect on February 24, 2024. Voting aye: Stinson, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Bakenhus, Fulton and Lee. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Don Ostert, general manager of Harrahs Columbus, and Mary Vaggalis, local counsel for Harrahs, are lead speakers for updates on Harrahs Columbus. Lynne McNally, representative for Warhorse Lincoln and Omaha, is the lead speaker for updates on Warhorse locations. Information purposes only no motion carried.

UPDATE ON NRCG MINIMUM INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS ADDENDUMS-DIRECTOR CASEY RICKETTS AND STEVE MAY WITH GLI

Holly Yelloweagle, Casey Ricketts, and Steve May lead workers on the MICs. Steve May is the lead speaker giving updates on the project and plans to meet with the industry to get their feedback. Information purposes only no motion carries.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Zach Mader representing the Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association presented the agreed yearly contract with Fonner Park, not disclosed before the meeting.

The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association had no speaker and no update.

Lead speaker Ed Ziemba representing the Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeding Association had no update.

The Thoroughbred Racing Associations in Nebraska had no speaker and no update.

This was all for information purposes only and no motion was carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Sciandra speaks on behalf of Choices to invite the commission to the Governor signing for state proclamation on Problem Gambling Prevention Month on Tuesday, March 12 at 9 am in the Warner Chamber in Lincoln, Nebraska.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session recess starts at 2:25 pm.

RECONVENE MEETING

Executive session ended at 5:47 pm and was back on the record at 5:49 pm. Personnel matters were discussed, and no motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.