

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: April 19, 2024
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: NRGC Main Office
3401 Village Drive, Suite 100, Lincoln, Nebraska 68516

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

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

ABSENT:

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 12:35 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on April 2, 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 Commissioner Helen Feller who will be replacing Commissioner Shelby Bakenhus. Also introduced new NRGC staff Human Resources Manager Kylie Hatten and Nick Oberle in Compliance Sportsbook.

Commissioner Stinson joined the meeting at 1:11 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fulton moved, seconded by Galyen and Greckel to approve the March Meeting Minutes.

Voting Aye: Fulton, Galyen, Greckel, Lee. Voting Abstain: Beveridge, Feller. Motion carried.

Greckel moved, seconded by Lee to approve the March 2024 Financial Reports.

Voting Aye: Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Lee. Voting Abstain: Feller. Motion carried.

HBPA

Moved agenda item.

Speakers on behalf of the HBPA Lynne McNally, Board Member Gene McCloud, and President Wally Wollesen, introduced schematics that were not disclosed before the meeting to request approval of a new barn. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve Barn Construction. Voting Aye: Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Feller, Greckel, Lee. Motion carried.

NEBRASKA THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Moved agenda item.

Speaker on behalf of the NTBA, Secretary Treasurer Julie Larmon spoke on raising fees, breeders' funds, and the future of the association. Requested to close Wells Fargo administration bank account and move to Home Federal bank account. Also announced annual breeders benefit dinner and HBPA board meeting. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to allow the move of funds. Voting Aye: Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Feller, Greckel, Lee. Motion carried.

SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

Speakers on behalf of the Sportsbook Wagering Catalog, Sportsbook Manager at WarHorse Casino Jason Johnston and Lynne McNally introduced on behalf of WarHorse Casino, General Manager of WarHorse Casino Lincoln and Chief Operating Officer of WarHorse Gaming, LLC Robin Miller. Jason spoke on additions to the Sports Wagering Catalog and on the NCAA letter which is for informational purposes only and no action is needed. Fulton moved, seconded by Galyen to approve the additions to the Sports Wagering Catalog. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Lee. Abstain: Feller. Motion Carried.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY RACING AND EVENTS CENTER

Speakers Lynne McNally with the HBPA introduced new representative Marshall Bass for Atokad in South Sioux City spoke on the updates and list of officials for the Atokad live race days. Also, requested to waive rules 3.003.04 and 3.003.08 but then requested to forgo the waive of rules. Beveridge moved, seconded by Galyen and Greckel to approve the list of officials. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Feller, Greckel, Lee. Motion carried.

HARRAH'S NEBRASKA, LLC

Speakers Local Counsel Mary Vaggalis, General Manager Don Ostert, and VP of Racing Joe Morris spoke on updates to the opening of Harrah's Casino and Racetrack. Lee moved, seconded by Greckel to approve the opening date of the permanent Harrah's Casino. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Feller, Greckel, Lee. Motion carried. Galyen moved seconded by Beveridge to approve the ratifications of confidential items including gaming floor, sportsbook area, security plan, gaming kiosks, and camera placement. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Lee. Abstain: Feller. Nay: Greckel. Motion approved.

HER-HASTINGS EXPOSITION AND RACING

Speaker on behalf of Hastings Exposition and Racing, Inc. dba Fairplay Park, Cynthia Smith requested special permission to deviate from Rules 9.001.16 and 9.001.16A by email on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. A vote was then carried out through email. Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the request to waive the requirements of rule 9.001.16 that a maiden must be 5 years or younger to start and allow maidens 6 years or older to run at the HER race meet in on April 18, 2024. Voting Aye: Galyen, Beveridge, Lee, Stinson, Fulton, Greckel. Abstain: Feller. Motion approved. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the ratification of the email vote. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel. Abstain: Feller. Motion carried.

2024 LIVE RACE DATES

Speakers on behalf of Columbus Exposition and Racing Dan Clarey and Tom Jackson requested approval to set dates for a live race meet and updated take-out rates. HBPA Lynne McNally recommends approval. Greckel moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve 2024 live race days and amended take-out rates. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel. Abstain: Feller. Motion carried.

HCN RACETRACK

Speakers on behalf of Columbus Exposition and Racing Dan Clarey and Tom Jackson requested approval on geofence boundaries. Stinson moved, seconded by Fulton to approve the geofencing boundaries. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel. Abstain: Feller. Motion carried.

WARHORSE CASINO-CONFIDENTIAL

Speaker on behalf of WarHorse Casino Lincoln and Omaha Lynne McNally gave documentation that was not provided before the meeting and spoke on the construction updates of both casinos. This update was for informational purposes only and no action was needed.

2023 INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDITS OF GAMING OPERATORS

Speaker NRG Executive Director Casey Ricketts spoke on the updates of 2023 financial audits. This update was for informational purposes only and no action is needed.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association Lynne McNally, spoke on separate multiple accidents due to horses being spooked, updated on issues in the test barn which were addressed and fixed and concerns of a lack of medical staff for horses.

The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association had no update.

The Thoroughbred Racing Associations in Nebraska had no update.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Speaker on behalf of Choices Treatment Center and non-profit Creating Family Choices Mike Sciandra introduced the annual celebrity golf tournament fundraiser on Thursday May 30, 2024 at Woodland Hills Golf Course outside of Eagle, Nebraska.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Started executive session recess at 2:10pm.

RECONVENE MEETING

Reconvened the meeting at 2:45pm. Personnel matter was discussed no motions or decisions were made. Commissioner Galyen left the meeting at 2:42pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

The next Commission Meeting will be June 14th @ 1:30pm at the NRG Main Office in Lincoln, Nebraska.