

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: June 14, 2024
TIME: 1:30 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 1:41 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 14, 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.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fulton moved, seconded by Greckel to approve the April and May Meeting Minutes.
Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.
Feller moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the April and May 2024 Financial Reports.
Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.

RECOGNITION

Recognition of NRGC Investigator Saul Salinas-Castillo with a Certificate of Excellence.
Recognition of NRGC Licensing Business Manager Diane Osterloo retirement on July 7th, 2024.

APPROVAL OF SIMULCAST APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

No changes needed.
Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to approve all Simulcast Agreements.
Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF LIVE RACE DATES

Speaking on behalf of Legacy Downs and Horsemen's Park, HBPA President Wally Walleson and HBPA Chief Operating Officer Lori Thomas. Legacy Downs will be running 4 races on Friday, September 20, 2024 @ 3pm, 5 races on Saturday, September 21, 2024 @ 1pm, 4 races on Friday, September 27, 2024 @ 3pm, and 5 races on Saturday, September 28, 2024 @ 1pm. Horsemen's Park will be running 1 race on Sunday, September 29, 2024 @ 1pm.
Fulton moved, seconded by Galyen to approve the Live race dates.
Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.

SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

Speaking on behalf of WarHorse Sportsbook, WarHorse Sportsbook Manager, Jason Johnston went through each update to the Sportsbook. NRGC Sportsbook Compliance Josh Lubrano added to the Sportsbook update.
Feller moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the updates to the Sports Wagering Catalog.
Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.

GRAND ISLAND-RATIFICATION

NRGC Interim Executive Director, Casey Ricketts, spoke on her approval of the extended hours. Beveridge moved, seconded by Galyen to approve the ratification of the action taken in Grand Island Casino Resort hour change.

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

ATOKAD DOWNS-CONFIDENTIAL

Speaking on behalf of Atokad Downs, HBPA, Lynne McNally and Vice President of Construction for Ho-Chunk, Inc., Keith Kilpatrick provided documentation that was not presented before the meeting. Galyen moved, seconded by Feller to approve the request to move the licensed racetrack enclosure for the rest of 2024.

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

WARHORSE

Speaking on behalf of WarHorse, Lynne McNally and Vice President of Construction for Ho-Chunk, Inc., Kieth Kilpatrick updated on the construction updates for both WarHorse locations. Informational purposes only. No movement was made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT OF MARKET STUDY

The commission recognizes the submission of the market study. Informational purposes only. No motion carried.

HASTINGS EXPOSITION AND RACING

Speakers on behalf of Hastings Exposition and Racing (HER):

NRGC Interim Executive Director Casey Ricketts, introduces Former Director of the Racetrack Industry Program, Wendy Davis who recommended approval for HER. Legal Counsel for HER Brian Jordy spoke on the challenges of HER application approval. President of HER Cynthia Smith introduces Chief Racing Officer of the American Quarter Horse Association Janet VanBebber who then spoke in support of HER. Regional Vice President of Elite Casino and Resorts Sharon Hasselhoff and HER Brian Becker both answered commissioners' questions and provided added information on the application processes. Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to request further documentation, and move the agenda item to the next meeting on July 19, 2024.

Voting Aye: Galyen, Greckel

Voting Nay: Stinson, Fulton, Beveridge, Lee

Voting Abstain: Feller

Motion failed.

Recess starts 3:53pm

Recess ended 4:19 pm

Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to request further documentation, and move the agenda item to the next meeting on July 19, 2024.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Greckel, Feller

Voting Nay: Beveridge, Lee

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF UPDATED MINIMUM INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS (MICS) FOR TITLE 296

Speaking on behalf of NRGC, GLI Consultant Steve May gave updates on the MICS.

WarHorse Government Relations, Lynne McNally recommended approval of MICS.

Galyen moved, seconded by Greckel to approve the updated MICS.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Lee

Voting Abstain: Feller

Motion carried.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association Julie Larmon discussed event updates, and fund report.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association Lynne McNally, spoke on updates to barn construction.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association Ed Ziemba spoke on the delay of the decision of HER.

The Thoroughbred Racing Association in Nebraska had no update.

This was all for information purposes only. No motion was carried.

DIRECTORS UPDATE

NRGC Interim Executive Director Casey Ricketts updates the commission on Attorney Ryan Forrest's new position as Licensing Manager replacing Diane Osterloo position post-retirement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Lee spoke on the finalists for the NRGCE Executive Director position. Including Joshua Eickmeier, Laurie Holman, State Senator John Lowe, and NRGCE Interim Executive Director Casey Ricketts. Decision will be made by the August Commission Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Started executive session recess at 4:59pm.

RECONVENE MEETING

Reconvened the meeting at 5:33pm.

Discussed personnel matter.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

The next Commission Meeting will be July 19th @ 1:30pm at the NRGCE Main Office in Lincoln, Nebraska.