

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 19, 2024
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: NRG 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 1:35 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on July 18, 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

Feller moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the June 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried. Due to technical difficulties, the financial reports were pushed later in the meeting. Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the June 2024 Financial Reports. Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Beveridge, Greckel, Feller, Lee Motion carried.

NEW STAFF

Introduction of NRG Accountant 1 Val Kirkman, Gaming Compliance Representative 1 Austin Lampe, and State Steward Mike Corey.

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON PROBLEM GAMBLING-DIRECTOR DAVID GEIER

Speaker on behalf of the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, Anne McCollister requested the NRG Commission on temporary housing of staff. Nebraska HBPA Representative Lynne McNally offered space in Indian Village next to WarHorse Headquarters in Lincoln. No action was taken, informational purposes only.

SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

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

HARRAHS

Hours of Operation designation of Confidential has been withdrawn.

Speakers on behalf of Harrahs, Caesars Entertainment Joe Morris, General Manager Harrahs Columbus Don Ostert, and CER Dan Clarey spoke on the construction updates of the racetrack for the upcoming race season in Columbus at Harrahs Casino.

Fulton moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the ratification of the hours of operation of Harrahs Casino.

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

WARHORSE LINCOLN AND OMAHA CONSTRUCTION UPDATES-CONFIDENTIAL

WarHorse Government Relations Lynne McNally introduced WarHorse Omaha General Manager Stephen Ditchkus to the commission.

Speaking on behalf of Atokad Downs, WarHorse Government Relations Lynne McNally and Vice President of Construction for Ho-Chunk, Inc., Keith Kilpatrick provided documentation that was not presented before the meeting and gave updates on the construction of WarHorse in Lincoln and Omaha.

Informational purposes only. No action was needed.

WARHORSE LINCOLN

Speaking on behalf of Legacy Downs, WarHorse Government Relations Lynne McNally and Vice President of Construction for Ho-Chunk, Inc., Keith Kilpatrick spoke on the updates for live racing.

Galyen moved, seconded by Feller to approve the electrical work, installation of a tote board, and large video screen on the in-field at Lincoln Legacy Downs.

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

WARHORSE OMAHA

Speaking on behalf of Legacy Downs, WarHorse Government Relations Lynne McNally briefly spoke on the updates of opening day of WarHorse Omaha.

Lee moved, seconded by Galyen to approve the hours of operation, designation of the sports wagering area and the opening date of WarHorse Gaming Omaha on August 6, 2024, per completion of conditions.

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

Feller moved seconded by Beveridge to approve the ratifications of the security plan, gaming kiosks, and camera placements.

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

HASTINGS EXPOSITION AND RACING

Speakers on behalf of Hastings Exposition and Racing (HER), Hastings Expositions and Racing representative Brian Jorde and Elite Casino, and Resorts representative Sharon Haselhoff briefly spoke on updates of the completion of conditions.

Beveridge moved, seconded by Feller to approve the request to transfer their license from Adams County to Kieth County.

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

MIC ADDENDUMS

Speaking on behalf of NRG, Interim Executive Director Casey Ricketts gave updates on the MICS.

Feller moved, seconded by Stinson to approve the updated MICS.

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

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association Julie Larmon updated the commission on their last meeting discussions and fund reports.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association Ed Ziemba wanted to thank the commission for their support.

The Thoroughbred Racing Association in Nebraska had no update.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association Lynne McNally, spoke the excitement of racing in Columbus and barn construction updates.

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

DIRECTORS UPDATE

NRGC Interim Executive Director Casey Ricketts updates the commission on NRG Staff Member Ronald Frazier's education in Steward School who will be shadowing the Stewards in Columbus. Casey also spoke on new positions posted for the NRG and updated the commission on licensing and investigations progress throughout the month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:06pm.

The next Commission Meeting will be August 23rd @ 1:30pm in Columbus. Location is to be determined and will be posted on our website.