

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: March 21, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM
LOCATION: Heartland Event Center-Fonner Park
700 East Stolley Park Road
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Tony Fulton Commissioner

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 12:36 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on March 14th, 2025. 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 Greckel to approve the January 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

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

Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the January and February Financial Reports.

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

NRGC STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Executive Assistant Sierra Stinson has now been promoted to Licensing Supervisor.

Informational purposes only, no motion carried.

SIMULCAST AGREEMENTS FEBRUARY 15-MAY 3

Speaking on behalf of Horsemen's Park and Legacy Downs, HBPA Representative Lynne McNalley requests approval of all simulcast agreements. Speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association Kevin Hulse also requested approval of all simulcast agreements.

Beveridge moved, seconded by Feller to ratify the approval of all simulcast agreements.

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

GRAND ISLAND-FONNER PARK

Speaking on behalf of Fonner Park, CEO Chris Kotulak spoke on the reasonings for the cancelation of the first race weekend.

Informational purposes only, no motion carried.

GRAND ISLAND-ELITE CASINO

Speaking on behalf of Elite Casino, General Manager Vince Fiala requests permission to approve the opening of the permanent Grand Island Elite Casino on Thursday, April 10th. NRG Executive Director Casey Ricketts recommends the approval of opening the permanent facility.

Lee moved, seconded by Feller to approve and ratify the opening of the permanent facility.

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

2025 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIAL BREEDERS REGISTRARS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Kevin Hulse requests the NTBA to be appointed as an official thoroughbred registrar for 2025.

Feller moved, seconded by Greckel to approve NTBA as the official thoroughbred registrar for 2025

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

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association Ed Ziemba requests the NQHBA to be appointed as an official quarter horse registrar for 2025.

Feller moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve NQHBA as the official quarter horse registrar for 2025

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

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Kevin Hulse gave updates to the contracts with the racetrack facilities and the issues the association is facing.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Wally Walleson spoke on the upcoming Legacy Downs Racing Season in Lincoln.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association Ed Ziemba spoke on completion of annual reports and updates on this year's registrations.

The Nebraska Thoroughbred Racing Association had no update.

Informational purposes only, no motion carried.

DIRECTORS UPDATE

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts provided updates on the status of the new test barn intern program and updated on staff working on the completion of the Grand Island Casino will soon be transitioning to the WarHorse Casino in Omaha to begin work on the opening of Phase 2.

NRGC Deputy Director Laurie Holman spoke on updates to proposed bills.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

The next Commission Meeting will be April 18th, 2025, at 1:30pm located at the NRG Main Office in Lincoln.

This will also be the public hearing for the changes to Title 294 of the Administrative Code.