

# NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: June 20, 2025  
TIME: 1:30 PM  
LOCATION: Prime 10 Steakhouse & Venue 4174 63rd Ave  
Columbus, NE 68601

PRESENT:

Dennis P. Lee Chairman  
Janell Beveridge Vice Chairman  
Chris Stinson Commissioner  
Tony Fulton Commissioner  
Jeffrey Galyen Commissioner  
John Barrett Commissioner

ABSENT:

Helen Feller Commissioner

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 1:36 PM in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on June 5, 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.

### INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER JOHN BARRETT

Speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission, Chairman Lee introduced John Barrett, recently appointed by Governor Pillen to the Commission. John Barrett spoke briefly about his background with Great Plains Communications and expressed excitement about joining the Commission. No motion was carried.

### ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Lee nominated Janell Beveridge as Vice Chairman of the Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission. Lee moved, seconded by Galyen, to elect Janell Beveridge as Vice Chairman.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Galyen, Barrett, Lee

Abstaining: Beveridge

Motion carried.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fulton moved, seconded by Beveridge, to approve the April 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Beveridge, Lee

Voting Abstain: Galyen, Barrett

Fulton moved, seconded by Galyen, to approve the April and May 2025 Financial Reports.

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

Motion carried.

### NEW NRGK STAFF

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts introduced the new staff members:

1. Executive Assistant - Mayzee Rappl
2. Licensing Specialist - Amy Richmond
3. Gaming Compliance Representative II - Huntur Maneman

No motion was carried.

### NRGC DIRECTOR SALARY INCREASE

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts discussed the proposed 3.5% salary increase effective July 1, consistent with state employee raises.

Lee moved, seconded by Galyen, to approve the 3.5% salary increase for Casey Ricketts.

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

Motion carried.

### MAY-DECEMBER SIMULCAST AGREEMENTS

Speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Lynne McNally explained the proposed change to annual simulcast agreements. The proposal would replace multiple contracts throughout the year with a single comprehensive contract covering Fonner Park, Legacy Downs, Horsemen's Park, and Columbus Exposition and Racing.

Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge, to approve the change in simulcast contract effective dates.

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

Motion carried.

### COLUMBUS/CER

Speaking on behalf of Columbus Exposition and Racing, Dan Clarey presented the request for approval of racing officials.

Beveridge moved, seconded by Barrett to approve the racing officials for Columbus Exposition and Racing.

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

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Columbus Exposition and Racing, Dan Clarey explained the proposed carryover wager request for Pick Four and Pick Five wagers.

Stinson moved, seconded by Fulton to approve the carryover wager request.

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

Motion carried.

Chairman Lee read the proposed takeout rates for Columbus Exposition and Racing, including 18% for Win, Place, and Show, and 20% for exotic wagers.

Lee moved, seconded by Galyen, to approve the proposed takeout rates.

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

Motion carried.

### HORSEMAN'S PARK

Denny presented the proposed takeout rates for Horseman's Park.

Fulton moved, seconded by Barrett, to approve the takeout rates.

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

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Horseman's Park, Lynne McNally and Keith Kilpatrick presented details about modifications to the racetrack enclosure, including infield improvements, new paddock, and winner's circle. NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts recommended conditional approval of the modifications, pending submission and review of the finalized architectural plans.

No motion was carried. This was for informational purposes only.

Speaking on behalf of Horseman's Park, Lynne McNally and Keith Kilpatrick presented the list of proposed racing officials.

Beveridge moved, seconded by Galyen, to approve the racing officials for Horseman's Park.

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

Motion carried.

### ATOKAD DOWNS

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts provided a confidential review of the Atokad Downs racetrack application, recommending movement to final approval on August 8th with conditions. Following Commission discussion, the August Commission Meeting was rescheduled to August 15, 2025, and the final approval will take place at that time.

No motion was carried. This was for informational purposes only.

Speaking on behalf of Atokad Downs, Keith Kilpatrick and Aaron LaPointe presented the list of proposed racing officials.

Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the racing officials for Atokad Downs.

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

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Atokad Downs, Keith Kilpatrick and Aaron LaPointe requested a change to the race date to August 16th.

Galyen moved, seconded by Barrett to approve the race date change to August 16th.

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

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Atokad Downs, Keith Kilpatrick and Aaron LaPointe presented the proposed takeout rates.

Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the proposed takeout rates.

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

Motion carried.

### OGALLALA/HER

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts provided her recommendation on the Ogallala/HER racetrack application. Commissioners asked follow-up questions of HER representatives and Brian Jorde. The application will move to final approval on August 15th, with conditions. No motion was carried.

Speaking on behalf of Ogallala/HER, Cynthia Smith presented the list of proposed racing officials.

Beveridge moved, seconded by Stinson, to approve the racing officials for Ogallala/HER.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Beveridge, Lee

Abstaining: Galyen, Barrett

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Ogallala/HER, Cynthia Smith requested a race date change to Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 3 PM Mountain Time.

Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge, to approve the race date change.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Beveridge Lee

Abstaining: Galyen, Barrett

Motion carried.

Speaking on behalf of Ogallala/HER, Cynthia Smith presented the proposed takeout rates of 18% for Win, Place, and Show, and 23% for exotic wagers.

Stinson moved, seconded by Beveridge, to approve the proposed takeout rates.

Voting Aye: Stinson, Fulton, Beveridge, Lee

Abstaining: Galyen, Barrett

Motion carried.

### OGALLALA/LAKE MAC CASINO RESORT & RACETRACK

Speaking on behalf of Lake Mac Casino Resort & Racetrack, Joe Judge presented the authorized gaming application.

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts recommended conditional approval, to be reviewed at the August 15th meeting.

No motion was carried. This was for informational purposes only.

### MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Julie Larmon spoke about the Senator and Commissioner Day at Judy Prior Ranch, highlighting Judy Prior's commitment to thoroughbred breeding and the association's efforts to influence state legislators.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Lynne McNally discussed the simulcast agreements and the ongoing development of racing facilities.

Speaker on behalf of The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Breeders' Association, Ed Ziemba discussed the upcoming races and the importance of supporting breeders in the horse racing industry.

The Thoroughbred Racing Association in Nebraska had no update.

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

### DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

NRGC Executive Director Casey Ricketts provided an update on staff salary increases of 3.5% effective July 1, recruiting for new positions, and the contract with an accounting firm for best practices.

She discussed the signed contract with TRPD for simulcast reporting and the upcoming gaming set-off launch. Ricketts also noted the Nebraska State Patrol fingerprint fees increasing to \$55 and announced the annual staff home picnic scheduled for June 26.

No motion was carried. This was for informational purposes only.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session

### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Lee moved to adjourn the meeting.

Beveridge seconded the motion.

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

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 PM.

The next Commission Meeting will be on August 15, 2025, at 1:30 PM and will be via Zoom/Webex.