

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: December 19, 2025
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: via Webex

PRESENT:

Dennis P. Lee Chairman
John Barrett Commissioner
Jeffrey Galyen Commissioner
Chris Stinson Commissioner
Helen Feller Commissioner

ABSENT:

Janell Beveridge Vice Chairperson

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 1:35 PM in compliance with the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on December 17, 2025. Additionally, copies of such notice were sent to those on the Racing and Gaming Commission agenda mailing list. Notification was provided to the public regarding the Open Meetings Act and its location for public inspection.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

October 24, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Lee moved, Feller seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

October and November 2025 Financial Report

Stinson moved, Feller seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

ATOKAD RACETRACK OPERATOR LICENSE APPROVAL

Application reviewed with board and construction updates, approval subject to all standard conditions and resubmission of revised construction plans for Commission or staff approval.

Galyen moved, Feller seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

HER RACETRACK OPERATOR LICENSE APPROVAL

Application reviewed, approval included acknowledgment of updated board members and ongoing construction, subject to the same conditions as prior operator license approvals.

Stinson moved, Barrett seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

LAKE MAC CASINO RESORT LICENSE APPROVAL

License was previously approved through 2025; it was approved with the same conditions placed on them from their first approval in August 2025

Lee moved, Feller seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

2026 LIVE RACE DAY APPLICATIONS

Atokad: August 29, 30; September 5, 6, 7 – 5 days

Legacy Downs: May 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 30, 31; June 6, 7, 13, 14 – 11 days

Public comment by Doug Wenzl: “My comment is, are you planning on running more races? Because you're running less days than last year, it looks like.”

Lynne McNally responded: Yes, more races are planned.

Horsemen's Park: June 27, 28; July 3, 4, 5, 11, 12 – 7 days

HER: July 10, 11, 17, 18 – 4 days

CER: July 24, 25, 26, 31; August 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 – 15 days

Lee moved, Feller seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

2026 SIMULCAST LICENSE APPROVALS

HER, Cynthia Smith, provided an update on efforts to expand simulcasting in Ogallala, community outreach, and the engagement of a racetrack consultant to support operations.

Barrett moved, Stinson seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

2026 SIMULCAST CONTRACT APPROVALS

Legacy Downs

Horsemen's Park

Fonner Park

CER

Applications for 2026 simulcast contract approvals for all listed tracks were reviewed and approved as presented.

Stinson moved, Barrett seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

The Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association had no update.

The Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, represented by Lynne McNally, provided an update regarding progress on new barns and ongoing improvements; updates and requests were directed to the NRG Executive Director for approval.

The Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association, represented by Ed Ziemba, reported that they are working with AQHA on an email blast promoting the Nebraska-bred program to owners and trainers in Nebraska and surrounding states.

The Nebraska Quarter Horse Breeders Association had no update.
The Thoroughbred Racing Associations of Nebraska had no update.
Informational purposes only, no motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Executive Director, Casey Ricketts, introduced new staff (Jackie Garcia, Gaming Auditor, and Jeff Rief, Gaming Compliance Representative I), an update on licensing applications and the Thentia system rollout (now January 19, 2026), announcement of the Commission's Facebook launch, and the implementation of the National Voluntary Self-Exclusion (VSE) program.
Informational purposes only, no motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Wenzl commented, "How did you only do \$20 or \$32 in mutuel handle simulcast in the month of October? Is there anyone that can answer that?" Cynthia Smith responded with an explanation of initial offerings limited to quarter horse races and ongoing efforts to expand simulcasting and engage the local community.

Julie Larmon, representing the Nebraska Breeders, commented on efforts to increase field sizes of Nebraska-bred horses, facility improvements, the importance of continuous racing meets and increased purse money, as well as upcoming educational opportunities and ongoing collaboration to strengthen the local racing and breeding industry.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Lee moved to enter executive session to discuss pending investigations in the public interest and to avoid damaging any entity's reputation; Stinson seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

Moved to executive session at 2:50 PM, followed by a 10-minute break. Executive session officially commenced at 3:03 PM.

RECONVENE MEETING

The meeting was reconvened at 3:59 PM.

Galyen moved that the Commission retain a hearing officer and special prosecutor regarding pending matters involving the gaming operator license of Elite Gaming; Lee seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM

Lee moved to adjourn; Stinson seconded.

Voting aye: Barrett, Feller, Galyen, Stinson, Lee

Motion carried.

The next Commission meeting will be held January 23, 2026, at 1:30 PM at the NRG Main Office, 3401 Village Drive, Suite 100, Lincoln, Nebraska 68516.