

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: October 24, 2025
TIME: 1:30 PM
LOCATION: NRG Main Office –
3401 Village Dr. Suite 100 Lincoln, NE 68516

PRESENT:

Dennis P. Lee Chairman
Janell Beveridge Vice Chairperson
John Barrett Commissioner
Chris Stinson Commissioner
Helen Feller Commissioner
Jeffery Galyen Commissioner

Chairman Lee convened the meeting at 1:30 PM in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on October 19th, 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. The items on the public hearing for the amendments and the newly created portions of the Nebraska Administrative Code was published in the Lincoln Journal and star on September 19, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENTS TO NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 294

A public hearing was held regarding proposed amendments to Title 294, governing horse racing regulations. The main changes included the removal of previously controversial items, such as the equine ambulance requirement, and the addition of a Grand Slam wager, based on New York's regulatory language at industry request. The process for adjusting license types and fees was updated, with these details posted on the Commission website instead of included directly in regulations.

Galyen moved, Feller seconded.

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENTS TO NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TITLE 296

A public hearing was held on proposals to amend Title 296, focusing on reworking licensing requirements. Changes included removal of license types and fees from the regulations, and implementation of an updated online licensing system for more efficient application processing. The proposal also eliminated the "soft renewal" process and set forth new procedures for application notice and annual certifications. Commissioners discussed the requirement for written requests to be submitted at least 30 days in advance of a meeting for agenda consideration.

Galyen moved, Beveridge seconded.

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

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR NEWLY CREATED TITLE 295 TO THE NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

A public hearing was held to establish Title 295, implementing the Gambling Winning Set Off for Outstanding Debt Act. The new rules set procedures for offsetting gambling winnings when recipients owe outstanding state debts. The Commission discussed database reliability, timing of updates, and procedures for manual processing during outages. No objections were raised.

Lee moved, Beveridge seconded.

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

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Beveridge moved, seconded by Barrett to approve the August 15, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

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

Motion carried.

Feller moved, seconded by Stinson to approve the August and September 2025 Financial Reports.

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

Motion carried

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

With the departure of Tony Fulton, the Commission discussed the appointment of members to the Governance Committee. Chair Lee proposed that, for the remainder of 2025, the Governance Committee consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Commissioner Barrett.

Lee moved, Feller seconded.

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

Motion carried.

RACETRACK TIMELINE APPROVAL

The proposed racetrack timeline was approved. Any modifications to the timeline or plans will be formally reviewed by the Commission.

Galyen moved, Stinson seconded.

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

Motion carried.

2026 LIVE RACE DAY APPLICATION

Applications were presented for 2026 live race days: 31 days at Fonner Park (February 14–May 2) and 15 days at CER (Columbus) (August 7–September 7).

Lee moved, seconded by Feller.

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

Motion carried.

COMMITTED RACE DAYS FOR 2026

Legacy Downs, Horsemen's Park, and Atokad Downs each confirmed their commitment to minimum live race days for 2026: Legacy Downs - 6 days, Horsemen's Park - 6 days, and Atokad Downs - 5 days.

Specific dates remain to be determined

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

2026 SIMULCAST LICENSE APPROVALS

Applications for simulcast licenses for Fonner Park, CER (Columbus), Legacy Downs, and Horsemen's Park were submitted for the 2026 racing season. The Commission found all applications in order and no objections were raised.

Lee moved, seconded by Stinson

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

Motion carried.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association had no update.

Lynne McNally on behalf of Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association provided updates on Hall of Fame nominations and announced approval of the updated jockey fee schedule in consultation with the Jockeys' Guild.

Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association had no update.

Nebraska Quarter Horse Breeders Association had no update.

Thoroughbred Racing Associations of Nebraska had no update.

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

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

The Director welcomed new team members:

Jordan Jensen - Gaming Compliance Rep II (Sportsbook), Daniel McEowen - Director of Compliance, Brad Howell - Licensing Specialist, Cathy Kinder - Gaming Compliance Rep I, Cynthia Fajardo - Gaming Compliance Rep I, and Amy Richmond was promoted to Licensing Supervisor.

Thentia Database Update:

Progress was reported on the launch of a new online licensing database, with plans to transition all processes (especially for racing) to the digital system. Training will be offered to support the transition.

Financial Update:

It was reported that if the agency maintains current operations ("status quo"), a projected \$2.7 million deficit is expected by 2029, after all \$5 million license fees have been paid. To address this, a \$700,000 annual regulatory fee for casinos is planned to begin in 2027. This update was provided to aid operator planning and budget preparation.

Commission Meeting Schedule:

The following meeting dates are scheduled for 2026: January 23, April 24, June 12, August 21, October 23, December 16 (to be held via Webex)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 PM.

The next Commission Meeting will be December 19, 2025, at 1:30 PM and will be via Webex.