

NEBRASKA STATE RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: July 16, 2021

TIME: 1:30 pm

LOCATION: Nebraska Racing and Gaming Commission
Conference Room Third Floor
5903 Walker Avenue
Lincoln NE

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

Dennis P. Lee Chairman
Janell Beveridge Vice Chairperson
Jeffrey Galyen Commissioner
Shane Greckel Commissioner
Shelby Bakenhus Commissioner – delayed
Tony Fulton Commissioner

ABSENT:

Chm. Lee convened the meeting at 1:31 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition, copies of such notice were sent to those on the Racing and Gaming Commission agenda mailing list. Notification was given to the public of the open meetings law and notification to its location for public view.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Greckel moved, seconded by Fulton to approve the meeting minutes from June 11, 2021. Voting aye: Lee, Galyen, Greckel and Fulton. Abstain: Beveridge.

Galyen moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the June 2021 financial report. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel and Fulton. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SIMULCAST APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Galyen moved, seconded by Fulton to approve the applications received with an amendment to Columbus to include Saratoga. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel and Fulton. Motion carried.

ITEMS REQUESTED BY COMMISSIONER GRECKEL

Comm. Greckel entered a matrix into the record as an example of what our sub committees may want to use to try to quantify new information that will come in that provides structure to the industry and commission.

Comm. Greckel moved, seconded by Beveridge to apply this exhibit to our construction committee. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel and Fulton. Motion carried.

Comm. Greckel moved, seconded by Galyen to submit for review to the strategic planning committee moving all IT and storage needs to OCIO and establish minimum standards of security for data and guidelines for all current and future tracks. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel and Fulton. Motion carried.

Commissioner Bakenhus joined the meeting.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INFORMAL OPINION REGARDING THE SMALL TRACK FUND

Tabled from last meeting. Chm. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to table this item again to give all parties involved time to work this out. Funds will continue to be held by the Commission until something is finalized. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus and Fulton. Motion carried.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMITTEES

Chm. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to create two committees consisting of a Construction Committee and a Strategic Planning Committee. The members of each committee will be appointed by the Chairman and the Commission will approve the Chair the ability to make those appointments to its respective committees who will be disclosed at the next meeting. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus and Fulton. Motion carried.

LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSALS OF NEW RACETRACKS

Each applicant had a turn of presenting their information and license applications. Those applicants include:

- a. Aksarben Equine, Inc. proposing a new racetrack "Belle Vue Downs" located in Bellevue, Nebraska
- b. Freedom Bay, Inc. proposing a new racetrack in York, Nebraska
- c. South Sioux City Racing & Events Center proposing a new racetrack in Norfolk, Nebraska
- d. North Platte Exposition & Racing, Inc. proposing a new racetrack in North Platte, Nebraska
- e. Scottsbluff Exposition & Racing, Inc. proposing a new racetrack in Gering, Nebraska

After each applicant completed their presentation there were several members of the public that spoke in favor, in opposition, or neutral on the proposal. In addition, the Commission received letters or emails regarding the proposals. All submissions will be made a part of the record.

The Commission took no action of these agenda items. The Commission advised that due diligence needed to be performed on each application. The Commission advised that there was no timetable for their decision and there would be additional public hearings for each applicant.

Lynn McNally with the HBPA added the thoughts of the horsemen on a few of the presentations given.

HASTINGS EXPOSITION & RACING dba FAIRPLAY PARK

Requested permission pursuant to Commission Rule 3.001.14 to make changes to the FairPlay Park Racetrack enclosure. Greckel moved, seconded by Galyen to refer this item to the Construction Committee. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Greckel, Bakenhus and Fulton. Motion Carried.

DIRECTORS UPDATE

Tom Sage gave an update on the pari-mutuel handle, HISA and rulemaking, agenda item deadlines, personnel issues.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

NE Thoroughbred Breeders' Association – payouts have been calculated and made, new website construction about finished.

NE Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association – Lynn McNally requested that Gene Mcloud, president OER be allowed to use the HBPA time on the agenda. Mr. Mcloud advised that OER was going to dismiss any current legal action regarding the ongoing OER and Breeders case and no longer cared who held the money.

NE Quarter Horse Racing Association – None.

NE Quarter Horse Breeders Association – None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission recessed to executive session to discuss pending litigation at 5:33 pm.

RECONVENED FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission reconvened at 6:06 pm. The Commission discussed personnel issues, pending litigation matters, planning with regard to the Commission's duties, responsibilities, staffing to various committees and possible dates for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Sage
Executive Secretary