

NEBRASKA RACING & GAMING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE: August 18, 2023

TIME: 1:30 PM

LOCATION: NE Racing & Gaming Commission
3401 Village Drive, Ste 100
Lincoln NE 68516

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS:

Dennis P Lee Chairman
Janell Beveridge Commissioner
Jeffrey Galyen Commissioner
Shelby Bakenhus Commissioner
Tony Fulton Commissioner

ABSENT:

Shane Greckel Vice Chairperson

Chm. Lee convened the meeting at 1:33 pm in compliance with the provision of Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1411. Notice of the meeting was published in the Lincoln Journal Star on July 20, 2023. 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

It was moved by Fulton, seconded by Beveridge to approve the minutes from June 9, 2023.

Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

It was moved by Galyen, seconded by Fulton to approve the June and July 2023 financial reports. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

SIMULCAST APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

No new applications have been submitted. Lori Thomas and Lynn McNally gave an update on Thoroughbred Racing Association of Nebraska (TRAN).

HARRAH'S NEBRASKA & COLUMBUS EXPOSITION AND RACING

Tom Jackson, CER, Bob Harr, Caesars, Dan Clary, CER, Joe Morris, Caesars, Mary Vaggalis, Bruning Law Group, Don Ostert, Harrah's Columbus. Mr. Harr gave an update of construction and process of the "Wishbone" location. Mr. Jackson provided an update on the improvements at Ag Park along with the crow's nest, catwalk, etc. Dan Clarey gave an update on the 2023 race meet and reported there are over 450 stalls with 51 different trainers requesting stalls for the meet. Joe Morris addressed the HBPA's concerns and questions regarding the "Wishbone" racetrack facility.

GRAND ISLAND CASINO RESORT

Sharon Haselhoff, Chris Kotulak, and Vince Fiala appeared and requested approval to open the expanded temporary gaming area adding 8 live table games and 46 additional slot machines. A

motion was made by Lee, seconded by Beveridge to approve the opening. Grand Island Casino Resort will be the first casino in Nebraska to have live table games. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

GERALD SCHLONDORF HEARING

Mr. Schlondorf was present. All exhibits were presented and accepted. The earliest the commission has jurisdiction is one year after the application to be placed on the Self-Exclusion was signed. signature. The earliest Mr. Schlondorf can petition to be taken off the list is 3/20/2024. A motion was made by Galyen, seconded by Beveridge to grant Mr. Schlondorf the opportunity to petition the Commission to be taken off the list after 3/20/2024.

SPORTS WAGERING CATALOG

Fulton moved, seconded by Beveridge to ratify the approval of future wagering, men's and women's FIFA World Cup Soccer and World Boxing Organization (WBO) Activities. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

REAL RESPONSES PROGRAM

Real Responses is an anonymous tip service for horseracing, gaming, and sports wagering. Fulton moved, seconded by Beveridge to approve the program. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

SPORTSRADAR ATHLETE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Bill Coley, former State Senator in Ohio and Jim Brown, Head of Integrity Services appeared via phone and explained the program. The Commission asked the staff to continue gathering information and bring back to them at some point.

GEOCOMPLY REPORT ON NE ONLINE SPORTS BETTING DEMAND

GeoComply is a Geo Fencing company that many states are using. They completed a recent study of NE showing the number of times people in the state have tried to place an online wager on any online application. From January 1, 2023, to July 10, 2023, 1.6 million people tried to place a bet in NE on a mobile application.

MARKET STUDY PROPOSALS

Vendors received statutes asking for an estimate or a proposal of what it would cost to complete market studies as outlined in Nebraska Statutes.

Chm. Lee moved, seconded by Beveridge to enter a contract with Innovation Group for \$48,000.00 to complete the market study. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

FONNER PARK REQUEST TO MAKE DRAINING REPAIRS

Administrative Title 294 Rule 3.001.14. Chris Kotulak was present. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Beveridge to approve the draining repairs in the area of the training track. Voting aye: Lee, Beveridge, Galyen, Bakenhus, Fulton. Motion carried.

WARHORSE/NHBPA UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION

Lynn McNally and Lori Thomas was present. Cushions are being installed at both locations. No zoning changes for Lincoln are necessary and the application for building permits for barns has begun.

HASTINGS EXPOSITION & RACING INC'S LICENSE TRANSFER

Brian Becker, Brian Jorde, Sharon Haselhoff appeared to inform the commission of the plan to request to transfer their racing license from Hastings to Ogalala.

MEETINGS WITH ASSOCIATIONS

Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders' Association – Julie Larmon, secretary/treasurer mentioned an update on the breeder's funds and the associations activities.

Nebraska Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association - None.

Nebraska Quarter Horse Racing Association and Nebraska Quarter Horse Breeders Association - Ed Zimba and Brian Becker introduced Jim Brinkman who is a council member of the American Quarter Horse Association.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Willard Peterson appeared, and he wanted to make a comment regarding Mr. Schlondorf and suggested that we try to point out a few things on the self-exclusion application.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Sage thanks his staff and commissioners for the job that we have done in so short of time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chm. Lee adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.