

**Virginia Racing Commission**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**July 25, 2024**

**Colonial Downs  
Ballroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
10515 Colonial Downs Parkway  
New Kent, VA 23124**

In Attendance

Commission Members:

Stephanie B. Nixon, Chair  
John F. Tanner Jr., Vice Chair  
Stuart C. Siegel  
Bette Brand  
Gillian Gordon-Moore

Commission Staff:

Bernard J. Hettel, Interim Executive Secretary  
Kimberly C. Mackey, Director of Operations  
Ada K. Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical Director

Attorney General's Office:

Elizabeth Myers, Esquire

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At 11:00 a.m., Chair Nixon called the regular monthly meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC) to order.

Chair Nixon welcomed Bernard Hettel as the Interim Executive Secretary.

Commissioner Siegel moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 22, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Brand and the vote was as follows: Commissioner Siegel, aye; Commissioner Gordon-Moore, aye; Chair Nixon, aye; Vice Chair, Tanner, aye; Commissioner Brand, aye.

There were no comments from the public.

Jill Byrne from the VEA gave an update on the Virginia Horse Industry Strategic Planning Committee.

Frank Hopf, Senior Director of Racing Operations for Colonial Downs Group, provided an update on the Colonial Downs Race Meeting.

Dr. Ada Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical Director for the Virginia Racing Commission and Greg Pachman, General Manager gave a presentation on StrideSAFE, LLC.

Commissioner Brand gave an overview on Spectrum Gaming Group.

Chair Nixon gave an update on the Executive Search.

At 12:30 p.m., Chair Nixon read the following motion:

“I move that we convene a closed meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss prospective candidates for employment. The subject of this meeting is to discuss candidates for the position of Executive Secretary Executive Secretary. The applicable exemption from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act is § 2.2-3711.A.1.” The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Tanner and the vote was as follows: Commissioner Siegel, aye; Commissioner Gordon-Moore, aye; Chair Nixon, aye; Vice Chair, Tanner, aye; Commissioner Brand, aye.

Returning from closed session, Chair Nixon read the following motion:

“I move that we vote on and record our certification that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.” The vote was as follows: Commissioner Siegel, aye; Commissioner Gordon-Moore, aye; Chair Nixon, aye; Vice Chair, Tanner, aye; Commissioner Brand, aye.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2024, and September 12.

With no further business set forth on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.