

**Virginia Racing Commission**

**MINUTES**

**OF THE**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**May 22, 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:

David S. Lermond, Jr., Executive Secretary  
Kimberly C. Mackey, Director of Operations  
Ada K. Caruthers, DVM, Equine Medical Director  
Yolanda Lopez Macias, Commission Veterinarian

Attorney General's Office:

James M. Flaherty, 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.

Commissioner Siegel moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 27, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon-Moore 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.

Commissioner Siegel moved to approve the 2024 Colonial Downs racing officials. 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.

Commissioner Siegel moved to approve the joint request from the Colonial Downs Group and the VHBPA for a reduction in the retainage percentage of the Pick-5 and Pick-6 Pari-Mutuel pools on live racing conducted at Colonial Downs for 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Gordon-Moore and the vote was as follows: Commissioner Siegel, aye; Commissioner Gordon-Moore, aye; Chair Nixon, aye; Vice Chair, Tanner, aye; Commissioner Brand, aye.

Vice Chair Tanner moved to approve the VHBPA Benevolence Budget for 2024 in the amount of \$214,000. 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.

Commissioner Gordon-Moore moved to approve the VHHA Benevolence Budget for the fall racing at Shenandoah Downs in the amount of \$18,800. 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.

Commissioner Gordon-Moore moved to approve the request to begin the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) stage for an Amendment to 11VAC10-47-180 (Simulcast Operations). 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.

Larry Smith gave a presentation on the Science of Training and Racing Horses Without Front Shoes.

Darrell Wood from the VEA gave an update on the concluded 2024 spring Standardbred racing season at Shenandoah Downs.

Frank Hopf, Senior Director of Racing Operations for Colonial Downs Group, reported on plans for the 2024 Thoroughbred racing season at Colonial Downs.

Debbie Easter gave a presentation on the economic impact study prepared by the Chmura Group on the Virginia -Certified Residency Program for thoroughbred horses.

At 12:23 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 personnel matters. The subject of this meeting is to discuss job performance of the 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 July 25, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

With no further business set forth on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.