

**NEW MEXICO HORSE RACING COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**Date:** May 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**Place:** NMRC Boardroom; 4900 Alameda Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM and MS Teams Video Conference – Meeting ID: 249 287 999 232 7

**Members Present:** Commissioners John Buffington, Billy Smith, and Robert “Bob” Pitre.

**NMRC Staff Participating:** Executive Director Ismael Trejo, In-House Counsel Richard Bustamante, and Law Clerk Denise Chavez.

<i>AGENDA ITEM</i>	<i>RECORDING #</i>	<i>DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS</i>	<i>ACTION TAKEN</i>
<b>Public Session 1:</b> <b>I. Call to Order and Roll Call</b>		Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Commissioner Billy Smith. A quorum was present.  Executive Director Ismael Trejo, In-House Counsel Richard Bustamante, and Law Clerk Denise Chavez were also present.	No Action Taken.
<b>II. Pledge of Allegiance</b>			Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
<b>III. Approval of Agenda</b>		Commissioner Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda today. Executive Director Trejo requested modifying Agenda Items D. 2, 3 and 4 to be ratifications as they were already approved.	Motion to approve the agenda as submitted made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre second the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

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<b>IV. Approval of Minutes:</b> April 17, 2025 – Regular Commission Meeting		Commissioner Smith asked if the minutes for the April 17, 2025, regular meeting were reviewed and if there were any changes. There were no changes.	Motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025, meeting made by Commissioner Buffington; Second by Commissioner Pitre. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>V. Commissioners' Reports</b>		None	No Action Taken.
<b>VI. Agency Director Reports:</b> A. NMRC Report		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Director Trejo began by reporting on his recent trip to Kentucky. He reported there was a lot of great discussions. They discussed how breeding in NM is down. Executive Director Trejo received positive feedback regarding catching cheaters in NM. However, it is become more evident that racing is in trouble everywhere. He stressed again how important adjustment to changes will help sustain racing.</li> <li>Executive Director Trejo reported the results of the study will be coming soon.</li> <li>Executive Director Trejo showed everyone the new improved sample bottles that were produced in Switzerland. They are tamper proof. They have a seal that is employed</li> </ul>	No Action Taken.



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<b>VIII. <u>Unfinished/New Business and/or Action Items:</u></b>	<b>0:03:45 – 0:04:07</b>	In-House Counsel Bustamante affirmed the Commission only discussed in Executive Session those matters listed under Items 7. A & B which was pending litigation and/or licensing matters as identified under Item VII of the meeting Agenda, in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 10-15-1(H)(1), (3) and (7) of the Open Meetings Act.	
<b>A. Request for Approval of 2025 Ruidoso Downs Stewards</b>	<b>0:04:10 – 0:04:52</b>	Executive Director Trejo requested approval of the 2025 Ruidoso Downs Stewards: Presiding Steward, Violet “Pinkie” Smith; Associate Stewards, Geoff Waxler and Julie Kagno; and substitute stewards.	Motion to approve Ruidoso Downs’ 2025 Steward as presented made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
<b>B. Request for Approval of Second Half of 2025 Regular Commission Meetings (July – November)</b>	<b>0:04:54 – 0:06:04</b>	Executive Director Trejo requested approval of the Second Half of 2025 Regular Commission Meetings (July – November). Proposed Meeting Dates: Thursday, July 17, 2025; Thursday, August 21, 2025; Thursday, September 18, 2025; Thursday, October 23, 2025; and Thursday, November 20, 2025 all in Albuquerque, NM.	Motion to approve the second half of 2025 regular commission meeting dates as presented made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed





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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend 2025 Stakes Schedule</li> <li>3. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend 2025 Post Times (Kentucky Derby)</li> <li>4. Request for Ratification of Approval to Run 12 Races on May 4, 2025</li> <li>5. Request for Ratification of Approval of Variance on April 27, 2025 (Run 6-11 power outage)</li> <li>6. Request for Ratification of Approval for Purse Distribution on April 27, 2025 for Races 6-11</li> </ol>		<p>Mr. Barber requested ratification of Approval to Amend SunRay Park's 2025 Stakes Schedule.</p> <p>Mr. Barber requested ratification of approval to amend SunRay Park's 2025 Post Times for the Kentucky Derby.</p> <p>Mr. Barber requested ratification of approval to run 12 races on May 4, 2025. This request was to make up the stakes (La Plata QH Stakes) that was canceled the week before.</p> <p>Mr. Barber requested ratification of approval of the variance for races 6-11 on April 27, 2025. The variance was requested due to a power outage in the Farmington area.</p> <p>Mr. Barber requested ratification of approval for purse distribution on April 27, 2025 for races 6-11.</p> <p>Mr. Barber reported that the meet, so far, is going good.</p>	<p>Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>
<p><b>E. Approvals for Zia Park</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Request for Approval to Amend 2025 Primary License</li> </ol>	<p><b>0:11:15 – 0:12:49</b></p>	<p>Mr. Christopher McErlean of Zia Park requested approval to amend Zia Park's 2025 Primary License; Zia Park's race days will continue to run for a total of 31 days. The original primary license had Wednesdays scheduled and those were changed to Fridays (November 14, November 28</p>	<p>Motion to approve to amend Zia Park's 2025 Primary License as presented made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre</p>

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<p><b>F. Approvals for The Downs at Albuquerque</b></p> <p>1. Request for Approval of Condition Book &amp; Condition Book Officials</p> <p>2. Request for Approval of 2025 Stakes Schedule</p>	<p><b>0:12:55 – 0:14:04</b></p> <p><b>0:14:05 – 0:14:24</b></p>	<p>and December 12) to allow “breathing room” from the horse supply.</p> <p>Mr. Don Cook of The Downs at Albuquerque requested approval of 2025 Condition Book and Condition Book Officials. Vice-Chairman Buffington asked Mr. Cook if he spoke to his local committee regarding this condition book. Mr. Cook responded, “yes”. Vice-Chairman Buffington then asked about the percentage of stakes races at this meet. Mr. Cook responded 20%.</p> <p>Mr. Cook requested approval of The Downs at Albuquerque’s 2025 Stakes Schedule as submitted.</p>	<p>seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p> <p>Motion to approve DAA’s 2025 Condition Book and Condition Book Officials made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p> <p>Motion to approve DAA’s 2025 Stakes Schedule as submitted made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>

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3. Request for Approval of 2025 Purse Schedule	0:14:26 – 0:15:01	Mr. Cook requested approval of The Downs at Albuquerque's 2025 Purse Schedule. This purse schedule is a slight decline from 2024's Purse Schedule due to the loss of simulcast signals.	Motion to approve DAA's 2025 Purse Schedule made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
4. Request for Approval of 2025 Post Times & Wagering Format	0:15:07 – 0:15:23	Mr. Cook requested approval of The Downs at Albuquerque's 2025 Post Times & Wagering Format.	Motion to approve DAA's 2025 Post Times & Wagering Format made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
<b>X. Adjournment at 10:13 AM</b>	<b>0:15:25 - end</b>	Chairman Smith adjourned meeting.	

  
 Billy G. Smith, Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date

 6-26-2025  
 Executive Director Ismael Trejo \_\_\_\_\_ Date