

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

Date: November 20, 2025

Place: NMRC Boardroom; 4900 Alameda Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM and on Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Chairman Billy Smith, Commissioner John Buffington, and Commissioner Bob Pitre.

NMRC Staff Participating: Executive Director Ismael Trejo, In-House Counsel Richard Bustamante and Senior Paralegal David Dominguez

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS	ACTION TAKEN
Public Session 1: I. Call to Order and Roll Call	Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Smith. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.	No Action Taken.
II. Pledge of Allegiance		Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
III. Approval of Agenda	Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the agenda today. Director Trejo advised that item H. 3. on the agenda needs to be modified to reflect the correct date of Saturday, October 25 th instead of Friday, October 24 th , regarding the Downs at Albuquerque's request to run ten races.	Motion to approve the agenda as amended made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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IV. Approval of Minutes	<p>Chairman Smith asked if there were any changes to the minutes.</p> <p>No changes but In-House Counsel Bustamante clarified that the minutes were August 21, 2025, Regular Meeting, September 30, 2025, Special Meeting, and October 23, 2025, Regular Meeting.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the minutes made by Commissioner Buffington.</p> <p>Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
V. Commissioners' Reports:	No comments.	No Action Taken.
VI. Agency Director Reports:	<p>Director Trejo reported that he would be traveling to Tucson for the annual symposium on racing to be a part of a discussion panel regarding the cooperative breed program between Arizona and New Mexico. Other jurisdictions have started something very similar and those programs seem to have been successful this past summer, specifically at Colonial Downs. Director Trejo further reported things are going well at Zia Park, as it seems to be steady and strong.</p> <p>No comments or questions for Director Trejo.</p>	No Action Taken.
VII. NM Horse Breeders Association Reports:	<p>New Mexico Horse Breeders' Association Director Barber reported that, for the Downs at Albuquerque, it ran 129 New Mexico bred races in 37 days, through Sunday, October 26. There were 53 thoroughbred overnights, 44 quarterhorse</p>	No Action Taken.

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	<p>overnights, 3 thoroughbred trials, 19 quarterhorse trials, 5 thoroughbred stakes, and 5 quarterhorse stakes. Contribution to the races was \$1,172,000.00 dollars, resulting in \$13,500.00 dollars more than in 2024. It averaged 3.49 New Mexico bred races per day, with 61 thoroughbred and 68 quarterhorse races, up 18 for the three a day. For the average field size for restricted New Mexico bred overnight races-only, there were 459 thoroughbreds that ran in 53 races, for an average field size of 8.66 horses per race. There were 402 quarterhorse with 44 races, for an average field size of 9.14. The combined average field size for 861 horses and 97 races resulted in 8.88. The New Mexico bred running in open overnight races in the 37 days resulted in 383 New Mexico bred. Of those, 103 came in first, second, or third. There were 44 thoroughbred and 59 quarterhorses, resulting in approximately 27 percent. Contribution for those horses was \$103,931.80 dollars. Additionally, the New Mexico bred Arizona bred program, there are 6 horses now, compared to 1 during the prior Commission meeting. Director Barber feels this number will continue to increase. Director Barber also thanked Don Cook and Tim Mckernan for their help with getting a couple of items regarding this agenda for SunRay Park to Director Barber.</p> <p>Chairman Smith asked if any Arizona bred won a breed race yet. Director Barber stated that 2 horses came in second so far.</p>	

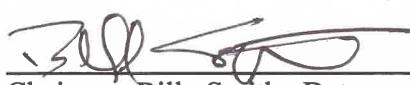
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VIII. Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Martinez and Hernandez v. NMRC (Pending Litigation) B. Fred Heinrich (Licensing) C. SunRay Park (Licensing) D. Sunland Park (Licensing) E. Zia Park (Licensing) F. Downs at Albuquerque (Licensing) G. Ruidoso Downs (Licensing) 	<p>Commissioner Buffington called for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the items listed in the agenda, pursuant to Sections 10-15-1H(1), H(3) and H(7) of the Open Meetings Act authorizing closed sessions for matters related to issuance, suspensions, renewal or revocation of a license; deliberations on adjudicatory proceedings and pending or threatened litigation.</p>	<p>Motion to enter into Executive Session made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.</p>
<p>Public Session 2:</p> <p>IX. Unfinished Business/New Business and/or Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Request for Approval of Fred Heinrich's Secondary License Application B. Request for Approval of Grace Period for Rule 15.2.6.9(B)(5) (Out of Competition Testing Penalties for Hair Violations) 	<p>Mr. Heinrich was present virtually for this motion. Chairman Smith thanked Mr. Heinrich and wished him good luck. Mr. Heinrich welcomed the Commissioners to visit Sunland sometime.</p> <p>Director Trejo indicated there has still been a little trouble locating a lab that wants to get involved with this new program that is hopefully going to be implemented in the future. As a result, Director</p>	<p>Motion for approval of Fred Heinrich's Secondary License Application made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion for approval to continue the grace period made by Commissioner</p>

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Until Further Notice	<p>Trejo respectfully requested to continue the grace period.</p>	Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
C. Request for Approval of 2025-26 Sunland Park Stewards	<p>Director Trejo requested the following State Stewards and Substitute Stewards for the 2025/2026 Sunland Park race meet:</p> <p>Presiding Steward - Julie Kagno Steward - Roger Farrell Steward - Geoff Waxler Substitute Steward – Leasa Johnson Substitute Steward – Elizabeth Garcia Substitute Steward – Ronald Frazier Substitute Steward – Violet “Pinkie” Smith Substitute Steward – Chris Warren</p>	Motion for approval of the 2025-26 Sunland Park Stewards made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
D. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend Zia Park 2025 Stewards	<p>Director Trejo respectfully requested the ratification of approval to amend the 2025 Zia Park Board of Stewards, with Julie Farr being an associate steward, and Ronald Frazier being a substitute steward, to fill in for the last 2 weeks at Zia Park.</p>	Motion for approval to amend Zia Park 2025 stewards made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
E. Approvals for SunRay Park		Motion for approval of E items 1 through 4 made by Commissioner
1. Request for Approval of 2026 Simulcast Imports		

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2. Request for Approval of 2026 Stakes Schedule 3. Request for Approval of 2026 Four Corners Futurity Nomination Blank 4. Request for Approval of 2026 NM Breeders Futurity Nomination Blank	change is \$60,000.00 dollars equally between the track and horseman on the NM Breeders Futurity.	Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
F. Approvals for Sunland Park 1. Request for Approval of 2026 Simulcast Imports 2. Request for Approval of 2025-26 Post Time Schedule and Wagering Format 3. Request for Approval of 2026 Payment of Purses (Pursuant to 15.2.3.8.D(4) NMAC) 4. Request for Approval of Variance for Thursday, December 25, 2025	Dustin Dix of Sunland Park requested the approval of F items 1 through 4. Dustin also congratulated Fred Heinrich on the approval of his secondary license application.	Motion for approval of F items 1 through 4 made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
G. Approvals for Zia Park 1. Request for Approval of 2026 Simulcast Imports 2. Request for Ratification of Approval to Amend Zia Park 2025 Racing Officials	Ken Goetz of Zia Park respectfully requested the approval of G items 1 through 3. Mr. Goetz added an update that for the same period to 2024 live handle is down 10 percent, total quarterhorse and thoroughbred handle is up 30 percent, and the field	Motion for approval of G items 1 through 3 made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion.

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<p>3. Request for Approval of Variance for Thursday, December 25, 2025</p> <p>H. Approvals for Downs at Albuquerque</p> <p>1. Request for Approval of 2026 Simulcast Imports</p> <p>2. Request for Ratification of Approval of Variances for Saturday, October 18, 2025 (Only ran 7 races) and Wednesday, October 22, 2025 (Only ran 2 races)</p> <p>3. Request for Ratification of Approval to Run Thirteen Races on Sunday, October 19, 2025, and Run Ten Races on Friday, October 24, 2025</p> <p>4. Request for Ratification of Approval to Distribute Purses for Races 3 through 10 Equally Among the Participants Entered on October 22, 2025</p> <p>5. Request for Ratification of Approval to Change Post Times for Friday, October 24, 2025, and Saturday, October 25, 2025 (as a precautionary measure due to malfunction of lighting system on October 22, 2025)</p>	<p>sizes are even compared to the same period last year.</p> <p>Don Cook of Downs at Albuquerque requested the approval of H items 1 through 5. Chairman Smith asked Mr. Cook if the simulcast is improving. Mr. Cook stated it was not. Chairman Smith was hopeful that, upon getting the signals back, the situation would improve.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Motion for approval of H items 1 through 5 made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.</p>

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I. Approvals for Ruidoso Downs <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request for Approval of 2026 Simulcast Imports 2. Request for Approval of Variance for Thursday, December 25, 2025 	<p>Rick Baugh of Ruidoso Downs requested the approval of I items 1 and 2. Rick Baugh also updated the Commission that the clean up of Ruidoso Downs is approximately 80 percent completed after starting approximately 6 weeks ago. Mr. Baugh also had a meeting this morning with the Lincoln County Task Force, with Homeland Security present, as they are preparing a watershed document to present to all the stakeholders in the area on December 3rd. The engineers were on the property reviewing the damage and trying to come up with additional solutions to stop the waterflow.</p> <p>Chairman Smith asked Mr. Baugh if they are listening to him regarding how he would like it done. Mr. Baugh stated some are and some are not, and they are back at the drawing board.</p>	Motion for approval of I items 1 and 2 made by Commissioner Buffington. Commissioner Pitre seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
X. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned after completion of items on the agenda.	

 11/22/26
Chairman Billy Smith Date:

 1-28-26
Executive Director Ismael Trejo Date: