

MINUTES
WV RACING COMMISSION
Tuesday November 19th, 2024
WV Racing Commission Conference Room

The WV Racing Commission met on November 19th, 2024, to conduct business and consider administrative matters. Roll call was taken, and present was Interim Chairman Tony Figaretti Commissioner Chip Urling, and Commissioner Paul Espinosa.

Agenda Item #1 – Approval of October 24th and November 1st meeting minutes

The minutes will be approved.

*Motion made by
Chairman Figaretti to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #2 – Executive Director's Report

Mr. Moore updated the commission on live race days, Mountaineer Parks last race day will be December the 11th. Charles Town Last Race Day will be December the 14th and as approved in your last commission meeting, they'll begin their calendar year 25 meet on Thursday, January the 2nd. The Commission is still searching for two investigators, one at Mountaineer and one at Charles Town. However, the Secretary's office sent a directive stating that the current administration would no longer be approving any new hires, pay rates, that anything the agencies did through the end of the year till the next administration is in office. That may delay some of our situations a little bit. Like I said, we're still kind of in the search and interview process. It shouldn't affect us too much depending on how quickly we can act in 2025.

*Commissioner Espinosa Moved that the Directors report be accepted. Seconded by
Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #3 – Legal Update

Mr. Eates updated the committee on HISA litigation nationwide on November 12th the RCI put out another update memo which is a much more thorough report than anything I could give you, and if anybody wants a copy of that who doesn't have it, I'm happy to email that to you. The Commission has already been emailed a copy.

Agenda Item #4 – West Virginia Breeders Classics, LTD request approval of 2025 Contract Renewal

Mr. Moore presents a request for West Virginia Breeders' Classics LTD to request approval of the 2025 contract renewal. The Breeders' Classics contract renewal is an annual contract. It is the same stipulations as in previous years. The West Virginia Breeders' Classics will be held Saturday, October the 11th of 2025. Mr. Moore recommends for approval.

*Motion made by Commissioner Urling to approve the contract as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #5 – HCCTR Request Approval to Operate Casino on Christmas Day w/o Simulcasting

Hollywood Casino of Charles Town requests approval to operate the casino on Christmas Day with no simulcasts. Mr. Moore stated to the Commissioners that this has come up over the past several years. Fewer and fewer tracks are running on Christmas Day. Last handful of years, our racetracks have not been able to obtain a signal on Christmas Day to operate the simulcasting facilities. You have a statute that mandates that live racing or simulcasts be in operation for every casino operating day. The past several years we have approved this type of request for our racetracks to continue operating the casino on Christmas Day without simulcasting due to there being no signal to be made available to patrons. Mr. Moore recommends for approval.

*Motion made by Commissioner Espinosa
. Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #6 – Wheeling Island Request Approval to Operate Casino on Christmas Day w/o Simulcasting

Wheeling Island request approval to operate the casino on Christmas Day with no simulcasts. Mr. Moore stated that this is the exact same request as agenda item number five I would recommend for approval.

*Motion made by Commissioner Urling
Second, by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #7 – Mountaineer Park Request Approval of 2025 Live Race Calendar

Mountaineer Park request approval of the 2025 live race calendar. Mountaineer Park has put before you today their statutorily required request of 210 live race days. They've given you a calendar that would start March the 1st and run through December the 17th. Barring any reduction requested later. Chairman Figaretti To my understanding, here are you, they are declining more races? Mr. Moore responds that the request before you is a statutorily required 210 live race days for Mountaineer Park. They have not submitted any request for a reduction from that 210 number yet. They are required to request this number from you each year. That's before you for your approval today. Chairman Figaretti asked if the reduction has been requested? Mr. Moore responds that what is before you for your approval today is the statutory that require 210 live race days that they have to require every single year of the racing commission. It's the same request we did last year.

*Motion made by Commissioner Espinosa
Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #8 – Wheeling Island Request Approval of 2025 Live Race Calendar

Wheeling Island requests approval of 2025 live race calendar. The Wheeling Island has before you today for approval their 2025 live race calendar that You have the calendar before you. For the most part, it's five days a week other than particular holidays. 15 to 20 live races per card. Again, for 2025, they're requesting 258 days. In 2024, their request was for 257 live race days. So unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend approval of this request.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #9 – Wheeling Island requests approval of the 2025 import export sites

Each racetrack is required to submit to you their import-export list for the following year. Unlike the thoroughbred race tracks, there are no sidebar approvals needed for the Greyhound tracks. So unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend approval of this request.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #10 – Mardi Gras has submitted to you their live race calendar for 2025

Mardi Gras has submitted to you their live race calendar for 2025. The total number of live race days for Mardi Gras is 259. They'll race Tuesday through Saturday, 14 races per card. They've got special event dates for the Kentucky Derby, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. So unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend approval of this request.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #11 – Mardi requests approval of the 2025 import export sites

Mardi Gras request approval of 2025 import-export sites. Again, similar to the request that Wheeling Island submitted to you, this is Mardi Gras' annual request for their sites to export their signal to and offer simulcast signal for patrons. Unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend it for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #12 – Mardi requests approval of the 2025 Stake Races

Mardi Gras request approval of 2025 stakes races. Mardi Gras requests approval of the 2025 stakes races. Before you are the two stakes races to be run at Mardi Gras. The 2025 West Virginia Breeders juvenile stakes. The finals for that stakes is March the 29th at 25. The juvenile stakes is a \$35,000 stakes race. Funding for these stakes races statutorily comes from the West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund. The open stakes will be run on May the 31st. It's a \$65,000 stakes. And again, the funding for that stakes comes from the West Virginia Greyhound Breeding Development Fund. Mr. Moore would recommend both races for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #13 –CDTIC requests approval of the 2025 ADW Renewal Application

Churchill Downs Technology Initiatives Company, or Twin Spires, requests approval of their 2025 advanced deposit wagering license renewal application. We've received the application along with the application fee.

There are no outstanding payments awaiting from Twin Spires for the 2024 calendar year. They are currently in good standing with the commission. They have provided any changes made to their structure since the last approval for your review. Unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend it for approval.

*Motion made by Commissioner Urling
Seconded by Chairman Figaretti
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #14 –NYRabets requests approval of the 2025 ADW Renewal Application

NYRabets, requests approval of their 2025 advanced deposit wagering license renewal application. They are current on all payments, we've received the application along with the application fee. Unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend it for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #15 –Penn WDS, LLC requests approval of the 2025 ADW Renewal Application

Similar to the other two They are current on all payments, we've received the application along with the application fee. Unless there are any questions, Mr. Moore would recommend it for approval.

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Urling
Motion passed.*

Agenda Item #15 –Public Comments

Commissioner Espinosa would like to comment So I neglected during our last special meeting to mention that Commissioner Urling and I had attended the West Virginia Breeders' Classics. I just want to compliment everybody involved for a really exciting night of racing and just thought it was a very well-presented event and congratulate all the horsemen and women for their success that evening.

Also, I wanted to acknowledge a recent post that I saw regarding Wheeling Highlands' Game Changer program. I understand that they contributed in excess of \$12,000 to Madison Elementary School, so I know a lot of our casinos and racial organizations make similar type of contributions, but I did see that recently. I just wanted to wish everybody a happy Thanksgiving.

Agenda Item #15 –Adjournment

*Motion made by Chairman Figaretti
Seconded by Commissioner Espinosa
Motion passed.*