

Colorado Racing Commission
July 29, 2025
Special Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The special scheduled meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission ("Commission") was held on Tuesday, July 29, 2025 via video conference provided by Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 AM.

Members Present

Tameka Sampson, Chair
Jeff Ruebel, Member
John Hammes, Member
Dr. Lori Scott, Member

Members Absent

Dr. Kjersten Davis, Vice Chair

Racing Staff Present

Michael Phibbs, Interim Director of the Division of Racing Events
David Miller, Agent in Charge
Janina Rivera, Business Analyst
Kelly Haralson, Compliance investigator III
Emily Mauer, Criminal Investigator
Emmalie Baxter, Criminal Investigator
Sanela Simic, Auditor
Dania Cobos-Bejarano, Program Assistant II
Sarah Killeen, AAG

DECISION ITEMS:

1. Approval of meeting minutes for 6/10/2025

Interim Director Mike Phibbs stated these minutes were not available for approval. Suggestion made to table the minutes for the next meeting.

2. Removal of Consideration of 2025 third meet application for Bally's at Arapahoe Park – Interim Director, Michael Phibbs.

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs, stated he does not believe the track will meet the timeline that was provided for them. Mr. Phibbs asked to withdraw the meet application and apply again at a later date with a new timeline.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jeffrey Ruebel for the application to be withdrawn and was second by Commissioner Hammes.

3. Proposed new timeline for Race Meet Application 2025 – Interim Director, Michael Phibbs.

Interim Director, Mike Phibbs, stated that the track would like to establish a new timeframe for the race meet.

- September 25th, Live Racing.
- August 26th, Horsemen allowed on the track for training.
- August 12th, Division of Racing Events begins regulatory control.
- August 11th, Racing Commission Meeting to consider approval of the Race meet Application.
- August 4th, a completed application must be submitted to the Division of Racing Events.

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs stated there are still unresolved problems at the track, there is still no permit for the test barn, and some barns are still needing inspections to be done.

4. Consideration of request of Modification of Rules 11.210, & 11.481, & 11.212 – Interim Director Michael Phibbs.

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs, stated that Bally's Arapahoe Park requests the modification of the rules shortening the days. Mr. Phibbs stated that the commission had several opportunities to reject the request of modifications, accept the request of the tracks proposal in alignment of the last modifications, or propose their own.

Rule 6.102 - The Commission or the Board in its discretion may waive, set aside, or modify any rule contained herein when a waiver, setting aside, or modifying of a rule shall be in the best interest of the State and the sport of racing.

Shannon Rushton stated there was an inspector from Arapahoe County out at Bally's Arapahoe Park and went through the 15 barns that have been worked on. Mr. Rushton stated that the inspector wanted to see 4 barns that had a different description, which their electrical engineer would be sending out the day of. CORA Electric would then be contacted, once the new descriptions are received, to discuss turning the power on and schedule the final inspection for all 15 barns.

Chair Sampson asked Mr. Rushton if the redline items have been addressed with the county and if we have a forward plan about the test barn.

Mr. Rushton stated that he has not heard back in regards to the redline items. It took them 12 days to send out the redline items. Work has been done in the test barn that was stated on the demolition permit.

A suggestion was made for the track to apply as a training facility. However, Mr. Phibbs reported that the track would still need to be regulated and in accordance with the statute and commission rules, which includes electricity.

Motion made by Commissioner Ruebel for the new timeline of the meet application being turned in by August 6th, and meeting again August 11th. Second by Commissioner Mr. Hammes.

5. Discussion of change in the Test barn Location – Interim Director, Michael Phibbs, Executive Director of Bally's Arapahoe Park, Shannon Rushton.

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs, stated that the Division opposes the relocation of the test barn due to a variety of reasons; security reasons, custody issues, wash/bathe location, internet connections, etc. No other location would preserve the integrity of racing.

Executive Director of Bally's Arapahoe Park, Shannon Rushton, agreed to the statement that the test barn should stay located in test barn #9. Mr. Rushton asked to use the test barn as it was used last year, with a generator. As it was a good operation.

Chair Sampson asked the Commissioners for their input.

Both commissioners, Jeffrey Ruebel and Dr. Scott stated they would like to wait and see the progress in the test barn in the next two weeks and discuss it on August 11th.

Motion made by Commissioner Hammes to table until August 11th. Second by Commissioner Dr. Scott.

6. Greyhound Welfare and Adoption Fund Distribution – Division Auditor, Sanela Simic.

Division Auditor, Sanela Simica stated that the Division received two applications. One from Friends of Retired Greyhounds and one from Colorado Greyhound Adoption. Currently, there is approximately \$25,178 in the funds. Friends of Retired Greyhounds and Colorado Greyhound Adoption requested a partial withdrawal of \$12,500 and the rest to be distributed at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The fund to distributed as follows:

- Friends of Retired Greyhounds, 75 dogs, \$6,602.11
- Colorado Greyhounds Adoption, 67 dogs, \$5,897.89

Motion made by Commissioner Ruebel to approve the distribution of the Greyhound Welfare and Adoption funds. A second was made by Dr. Scott.

7. Early Release of Thoroughbred Breeders fund – Division Auditor, Sanela Simic.

The Division received a request Colorado Thoroughbred Breeders Association requested an early release of \$60,000 which would come out of the Owners and Breeders fund. Auditor, Sanela Simic has processed the request and her proposed date for the distribution is September 1st. Motion made by Commissioner Ruebel to release the Thoroughbred Breeders fund. A second was made by Dr. Scott.

Other

8. Interim Director's Report

Interim Director, Michael Phibbs reported that the new Racing Director will be present in the next Commission Meeting.

9. Public Comment

Adjournment

The July 29, 2025 meeting of the Colorado Racing Commission was adjourned at 11:17 AM.

Minutes Approved by the Commission

Dania Cobos-Bejarano

Dania Cobos-Bejarano, Program Assistant II

I certify these minutes were approved by the Commission on the 29th day of August 2025.