

Stephanie B. Nixon, *Chair*
John F. Tanner, Jr., *Vice Chair*
Bette Brand
Gillian Gordon-Moore
Stuart C. Siegel

Waqas Ahmed
Executive Secretary



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Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held June 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Location: State Corporation Commission, Tyler Building, Courtroom B, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia

In Attendance

Commission Members Stephanie B. Nixon, Chair
John F. Tanner Jr., Vice Chair (attending remotely due to distance)
Bette Brand
Gillian Gordon-Moore
Stuart C. Siegel

Commission Staff Waqas Ahmed, Executive Secretary
Ada Caruthers, Equine Medical Director
Andy Conway, General Admin Manager
Kimberly Mackey, Director of Operations
Elizabeth B. Myers, Counsel
Israel Saavedra, Compliance Officer

The June 4, 2025, meeting of the Virginia Racing Commission (VRC or Commission) was called to order by Chair Stephanie B. Nixon at 1:00 p.m. A roll call confirmed the presence of Vice Chair John F. Tanner, Jr. (participating remotely due to distance), Commissioner Bette Brand, Commissioner Gillian Gordon-Moore, and Commissioner Stuart C. Siegel. With a quorum established, Chair Nixon began the meeting.

The floor was opened for public comment with a three-minute limit per speaker and a request to keep comments tailored to the agenda items.

Commissioner Gordon-Moore provided highlights regarding her attending the Association of Racing Commissioners International conference in Louisville, KY.

Tad Berman inquired about amount of funds being spent on dental from the VHBPA benevolence budget.

Chair Nixon moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on March 26, 2025. Commissioner Siegel moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brand. Director Mackey confirmed that staff had no further changes and recommended approval. All commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

RE: Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held June 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Representatives from the Virginia Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (VHBPA), Aidan Turnage-Barney and Colonial Downs Group, Frank Hopf, gave an update regarding the 2025 Colonial Downs Summer race meeting. Jump races will start at 10:45 am on Thursdays for the upcoming season. If a race day is lost on Wednesday or Thursday due to weather, etc., the plan is to move the races to Sunday.

Representatives from the Great Meadow Foundation, Virginia Gold Cup, provided an update regarding the 2025 Virginia Gold Cup.

Executive Director Ahmed announced the Israel Saavedra has been promoted to the Director of Licensing and Investigations.

Chair Nixon moved to approve the request related to the 2025 Colonial Downs Summer race meeting. Commissioner Gordon-Moore, moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Brand. Director Saavedra summarized three separate but related submissions from Colonial Downs Group, LLC ("Colonial Downs"). The proposed roster of racing officials fulfills the regulatory obligation as a licensed operator to provide a complete list of racing officials for the 2025 Summer Meet. Staff will notify Colonial Downs of any individuals requiring new permits and guide them through the application process. The approval of Pick 5 carryover and multiple wagering takeout. The request to contribute carryovers for Early and Late Pick 5 pools to their corresponding pools on the next scheduled race date within the same race meeting. is requesting takeout percentages of 12% for the Early and Late Pick 5 pools, and 15% for the Pick 6 pool. In lowering these rates, Colonial Downs will use funds from its share of the takeout to ensure that a total of 1% of the pool is contributed to the Virginia Breeders Fund. VRC staff recommended approval of the request as presented. All commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Chair Nixon moved to approve the request related to the benevolence budget in the amount of \$231,000 for 2025. Commissioner Brand, moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Siegel. Representatives for the applicant and the VHBPA presented the budget thoroughly. All commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

There were no comments during the second comment period.

At 2:23 p.m., Commissioner Gordon-Moore read the following motion to go into closed session. "I move that we convene a closed meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The purpose and subject of this meeting is to discuss personnel matters and consultation by staff and legal counsel. The applicable exemptions from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act is Section 2.2-3711.A.1. and Section 2.2-3711.A." All commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

Returning from closed session at 3:12 p.m., Commissioner Gordon-Moore 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." All commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.

With no further business, Chair Nixon entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting concluded at 3:15 p.m.

