

IOWA RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION

MINUTES

JUNE 19, 2025

The Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) met on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at Q Casino + Resort in Dubuque, Iowa. Commission members present were Chair, Daryl Olsen; Vice Chair, Mark Campbell; and Commission members Amy Burkhart and Alan Ostergren.

APPROVE AGENDA: Chair Olsen called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and requested a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Olsen requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2025 Commission meeting. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

WELCOME: Brian Rakestraw, Chief Operating and Financial Officer for Dubuque Racing Association (DRA), welcomed everyone to Q Casino and said last time the Commission had a meeting in Dubuque they were scheduled to host but had to pass because they were starting their \$85 million development project. He said they now have a refreshed casino floor, a family entertainment arcade and a beautiful hotel and rooftop restaurant going in. Mr. Rakestraw said he is excited to take them on a tour later to show them the breathtaking views of downtown and the river. He said tonight they have their first outdoor concert of the season and he's excited for all the great things going on in Dubuque and their property, which wouldn't be possible without the Commission's support. He then turned it over to Lori Thielen, Board Chair for DRA.

Ms. Thielen welcomed everyone to the property and said she hopes they can see the commitment that they've made to the community and region of Iowa. She said they just celebrated their 40th year and during that time they have created great momentum in Dubuque. She said when the property opened in 1985 the unemployment rate in Dubuque was 20%. Today it is at 3.6%. She said their license has changed the trajectory of the city and been very impactful. Ms. Thielen said they have given \$1.1 billion to the community and she hopes they can see the impact it has made. She then turned it over to Rick Dickinson, DRA Executive Board Member and President/CEO of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.

Mr. Dickinson thanked the Commission for their service to their community and the state. He said he knows their jobs involve challenging decisions and he appreciates the fact that they are deliberate in considering all sides so they can make the best decisions for the state. He said it is no coincidence that both the DRA and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation both celebrated their 40th anniversary's this year. He said if not for the DRA there would be no Greater Dubuque Development Corporation and he discussed all the other things that would not be possible without the DRA. Mr. Dickinson talked about an article in the Wall Street Journal that referred to Dubuque as the hub of Midwest cool, which is the brand they seek. He said Dubuque is a beautiful city with great amenities where baby boomers can have security and quality health care while at the same time attract young talent to the city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Tina Eick, Administrator of IRGC, stated the next Commission meeting will be Friday, July 11th at Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino. Submissions for this meeting are due in the Des Moines office by June 26th. She advised the meeting will start at 2:30 PM to allow the Commissioners to attend live racing that evening. The August meeting will be held on August 28th at Riverside Casino & Golf Resort. There is no meeting in September.

Ms. Eick also acknowledged Cathy Dillon and Tracy Potter from Q Casino, as well as Joe Gau and Shawntel Schmitt from Diamond Jo. She said these staff members are the Commission's boots on the ground at each of their facility. They license employees, do regular compliance checks, perform investigations and slot work as well as numerous other duties. She said they work closely with the licensed facilities to help ensure gaming is operating with integrity as well as compliance with Iowa laws and Commission rules. She thanked them for all the hard work they do.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Legislative Session Update: David Ranscht, General Counsel for IRGC, provided an update on the legislative session that just adjourned about a month ago. He said Senate File 659 had a lot in it but the part for the Commission was creating a new horse racing fund which will contain taxes from online advance deposit wagering (ADW) operators. The fund will collect money that will be earmarked for paying the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) assessments. He said if the historical numbers continue the fund probably won't pay a full year of HISA assessments but probably around a third. He said in the past the Commission has opted out of funding that but now they will be able to pay part of it which will reduce the amount that will be paid by Prairie Meadows and the Horsemen.

Mr. Ranscht said that Senate File 605 passed which clarified that sports wagering winnings are subject to state and federal income tax. This will go into effect January 1st for the new tax year.

Mr. Ranscht said there were about five bills that distributed money from the sports wagering receipts fund to other agencies to use in their programs. He said the Department of Public Safety got some funding for equipment, the Department of Education got some funding for compensation supplements, Economic Development got some funding, as well as the Department of Revenue.

Mr. Ranscht said the last legislation of note was House File 706 which made changes to some open meetings and open records chapters. He said the most notable change here is that the bill requires a one to two hour education course on open meetings and open records for each person who is newly appointed. This will not affect the current Commissioners, but when a fifth person is appointed they will have to take that course within 90 days of when they start. Staff will monitor this.

Executive Order 10 – Rule Review Process Discussion: Mr. Ranscht said that Executive Order 10 was issued by the Governor in 2023 which requires every agency to review and reenact all of their rules. The first goal in doing this is to eliminate redundant rules and the second goal is to reduce restrictive terms such as the word 'shall'. The IRGC was in the last group of agencies to have their

rules reviewed which gave IRGC a deadline of the end of 2026. The Commission will be taking input from Commissioners, staff, and industry stakeholders as Commission staff reviews these rules. Staff has started with rules relating to racing. Staff is meeting internally and comparing what other states do to see what works and what we can do better. The goal is to complete the racing portions of the rules in time for next racing season in May. He said the next step be to get to all of the other rules including gambling games and accounting rules. The goal is to have those take effect closer to the end of the timeline in 2026. Mr. Ranscht said any input from stakeholders is welcome and will be sought during this process.

Chair Olsen thanked Ms. Eick for bringing Mr. Ranscht on staff. He said he appreciates the time Jeff Peterzalek, Deputy Attorney General, has given the Commission but the Commission is lucky to have Mr. Ranscht on staff with all of the things that are coming up. Chair Olsen thanked him for his work and said how much he appreciates it.

APPROVAL OF REGULATORY FEES FOR FY 2026: Ms. Eick advised the proposed regulatory fees for the Commission and the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) are included in the Administrative packets, and have been distributed to the industry. She stated the Legislature sets the appropriations for the Commission and DCI. The schedules before the Commission establish the allocation for each licensee. She said that staff has not received any questions or concerns from the industry. Ms. Eick requested approval of the regulatory fees as presented. Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the regulatory fees for the Commission and DCI as presented. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CEDAR RAPIDS DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC: Kim Pang, Vice President of Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, gave a brief update on what is happening with the Cedar Rapids property. At this time all permitting and regulatory steps have been completed. The site has completed demolition and most of the land purchases have been acquired. They have worked with the Department of Natural Resources to look at the storm water, grading and utilities to get the site ready. Mr. Pang said at the end of this month they will have the foundation done and later this summer the exterior walls will go up. By fall they will erect the steel and by winter they will get the roof up and will start the interior framing. They are also working with the Mayor on a trolley shuttle service that they will be implementing. Mr. Pang said they are still on track for a December 2026 opening.

CASINO QUEEN MARQUETTE, INC.:

Request for Approval of Retail Sports Betting Agreement with Bally's Interactive, LLC: Ali Bartlett, Shareholder with Greenberg Traurig, presented the retail sports betting agreement with Bally's Interactive, LLC for Commission approval.

Commissioner Burkhart asked if this was not going into effect until the landside property is up and running. Ms. Bartlett said yes that is correct. She said the agreement might go into effect prior to that, but they won't be ready to do anything until then.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the retail sports betting agreement between Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. and Bally's Interactive, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Request for Approval of the Third Amendment to Third Amended and Restated Master Lease with GLP Capital, L.P.: Ms. Bartlett then presented the third amendment to third amended and restated master lease with GLP Capital, L.P. for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the third amendment to third amended and restated master lease between Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. and GLP Capital, L.P. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

CONTRACT APPROVALS (OSV = OUT OF STATE VENDOR; RP = RELATED PARTY):

Casino Queen Marquette, Inc.: Robin Corbeil, General Manager presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- EDG Consortium, LLC – Consulting Firm Providing Engineering/Project Service Solutions for Build of Land-Based Casino (OSV)
- Exceleration Project Management, Inc. – Project Manager for the Construction of the Land-Based Casino (OSV)
- Norr – Architects, Engineer, Planners, and Interior Designers for Land-Based Casino (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Casino Queen Marquette, Inc. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

IOC Black Hawk County, Inc.: Chad Moine, General Manager, presented a contract with Gasser Chair Co., Inc. to replace the casino floor chairs (Slots, Tables, Bar) (OSV) for Commission approval.

Commissioner Burkhart commented that this is one they had already approved a contract for and wanted to make sure she understood they were switching vendors due to some delivery issues. Mr. Moine said that was correct. After they had their initial contract approved they received some intel that the vendor was running into timing issues and not making deadlines.

Hearing no further comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contract as submitted by IOC Black Hawk County, Inc. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Iowa West Racing Association d/b/a Horseshoe Casino Council Bluffs: Sally Rogers, Director of Finance, Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf, presented a contract with JCM Global for Bill Validating Technology in Slot Machines for Commission approval. Request was made on behalf of Thomas Roberts, General Manager, Horseshoe Casino Council Bluffs.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contract as submitted by Iowa West Racing Association d/b/a Horseshoe Casino Council Bluffs. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC: Rob Higgins, General Manager, presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Dave Bessine Electric – Electrical Work for Casino Remodel
- Deery Brothers – Purchase a 2025 Nissan Rogue for a Casino Promotion (RP)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Catfish Bend Casinos II, LLC. Commissioner Burkhardt seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

SCE Partners, LLC: Doug Fisher, General Manager, presented a contract with Rasmussen Mechanical Services for HVAC and boiler maintenance and a boiler stack replacement for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contract as submitted by SCE Partners, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC: Mr. Pang presented a contract with Marsh USA for various insurance coverages for the project (builders' risk, flood, delayed startup) for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contract as submitted by Cedar Rapids Development Group, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C.: Nancy Ballenger, Vice President and General Manager, presented a contract with Rustic Oak Partners d/b/a Surface Experts for hotel furniture refinishing services for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhardt moved to approve the contract as submitted by Isle of Capri Bettendorf, L.C. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Ms. Ballenger said she wanted to take a moment to update the Commission. She said they did open their Midwest Bites food and beverage outlet at the end of May. They will serve breakfast and lunch five days a week and dinner two evenings. She said this now gives them three restaurants. She wanted to mention this since they had discussed it at a previous meeting.

Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd.: Mr. Rakestraw, presented a contract with Wired Production Group for entertainment production for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contract as submitted by Dubuque Racing Association, Ltd. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Diamond Jo, LLC: John Sanchez, Director of Finance, presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Conlon Construction – General Contractor for FanDuel Refresh
- Johnson Controls, Inc – Service Agreement for Facility’s HVAC Services
- RTS Solutionz Inc – AV Upgrade for FanDuel (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Diamond Jo, LLC. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C.: Steve Cody, General Manager, presented a contract with USA Security for a surveillance equipment upgrade and yearly maintenance fees for Commission approval.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Wild Rose Emmetsburg, L.L.C. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C.: Mr. Cody presented the following contracts for Commission approval on behalf of Ian Wilkinson:

- Baker Group – Monthly Maintenance Fees and Repairs and Maintenance to HVAC System
- Martin Bros. Distributing Co Inc – Food Distributor
- Northwest Bank – 401K Benefit Plan Administrator

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Ostergren moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Wild Rose Jefferson, L.L.C. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

HGI – Lakeside, LLC: Dave Monroe, General Manager, presented the following contracts for Commission approval:

- Mercer w/Empower – 401K for Employees (OSV)
- ScooterBug, Inc. – Patrons will be able to Rent a ScooterBug to Drive Around Lakeside Casino (indoors) (OSV) (RP)
- Sierra Health & Life – Health Insurance for Employees (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contracts as submitted by HGI – Lakeside, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC: Mo Hyder, General Manager, Rhythm City Casino, LLC, presented a contract with Elite Casino Resorts, LLC for goods and services cost allocations (RP) for Commission approval. Request was made on behalf of Sharon Haselhoff, General Manager.

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Grand Falls Casino Resort, LLC. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC: Mr. Hyder presented the following contracts for Commission approval on behalf of Damon John, General Manager:

- CAA Holdings, LLC d/b/a Creative Artists Agency – Entertainment Booking Agent (OSV)
- United Talent Agency, LLC – Entertainment Booking Agent (OSV)
- Wasserman Music, LLC – Entertainment Booking Agent (OSV)
- William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, LLC – Entertainment Booking Agent (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Campbell moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, LLC. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Rhythm City Casino, LLC: Mr. Hyder, General Manager, presented the following contracts for Commission approval.

- Best Buy Business Advantage – Gift Cards for Marketing Promotion and Products for Resale in Gift Shop
- Dirty Heads Touring Inc – Entertainment Act for Event Center (Dirty Heads) (OSV)

Hearing no comments or questions, Chair Olsen requested a motion. Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the contracts as submitted by Rhythm City Casino, LLC. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

HEARINGS: Ms. Eick presented the Stipulated Agreement with Rhythm City Casino, LLC for a violation of Iowa Code § 99F.9(5). Rhythm City Casino, LLC allowed underage individuals on the gaming floor.

Mr. Hyder acknowledged the severity of this incident and said although it was unfortunate, it provided them the opportunity to reassess, strengthen and implement more effective safeguards. He said since the incident they have taken immediate and comprehensive actions. They have strengthened their back of house access by installing a system which requires access cards for entry. All security and technology staff have undergone retraining with an emphasis on underage prevention and consistent enforcement of identification checks. And they increased surveillance by adding cameras and real-time monitoring in key transition areas. He said although these are not the only safeguards they have implemented, he believes they are the three most critical ones. Mr. Hyder also acknowledged that this was their third such violation in a 12-month period.

Commissioner Burkhart asked if it would limit their options if they were to have a policy in place that all entertainment had to be 21 and over. Mr. Hyder said now that they have the access controls in place, the entertainers cannot move between the two areas. He said when they do have to transition between areas, the marketing team meets with them and escorts them to the areas they need to access. Commissioner Burkhart commented that it seems like a risk inviting them in.

Commissioner Ostergren asked if these specific individuals were part of the entertainment act or just there as guests of the band. Mr. Hyder said it was a combination. Commissioner Ostergren asked why the individuals were not kicked off the property completely after several attempts that the staff intercepted. Mr. Hyder asked Paul Sikorski, Security Director, to elaborate. Mr. Sikorski said at the time he doesn't think it was clear that the individuals were trying to access the gaming floor and instead just appeared to be wandering around. He said looking back it is easy to put the puzzle together but at the time that wasn't clear.

Commissioner Burkhart said sometimes when you invite those entertainers in they think they have the run of the place. She said her comment to all the licensees would be to really review the process they have in the entertainment that is selected and try to mitigate the risk on the front end.

Commissioner Burkhart moved to approve the Stipulated Agreement with Rhythm City Casino, LLC in the amount of \$30,000.00. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chair Olsen requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Campbell moved to go into closed session under Iowa Code Section 21.5, subsection 1(d), to discuss whether to initiate licensee disciplinary investigations or proceedings. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a voice roll call.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION/POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS: Chair Olsen returned the meeting back to open session and requested a motion on case numbers 25-01C and 25-02H.

Commissioner Ostergren moved to close case number 25-01C without further action by the Commission. Commissioner Burkhart seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Commissioner Campbell moved to issue a notice of hearing and statement of charges on case number 25-02H. Commissioner Ostergren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

ADJOURN: Chair Olsen adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

CHANTELLE S. ARMINTROUT