



Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 21, 2013

Place: Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Room 222, Boston

Present: Robert Hubbard, Chairman
Stephen P. Crosby, Gaming Commission Chairman
Members: Sen. Jennifer Flanagan; Sen. Richard Ross, Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante, Rep. Angelo L. D’Emilia, Hilary Jacobs, Brian Lang
Invitees: Ruth Ellen Fitch, William Messner, David Stein, Barbara Anthony

Absent: None

Call to Order

10:06 a.m. Chairman Hubbard opened the 2nd public meeting.

Approval of Minutes

See transcript page 6. Chairman Hubbard sought approval for the minutes from the July meeting; Senator Flanagan so moved; Mr. Lang requested an amendment.

Stephen Crosby: gave a brief summary of recent occurrences in the Region A licensing background process and the role of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau.

John Ziemba: summarized the status of both the Category 1 and Category 2 applicants and explained the timelines relative to surrounding communities.

Dr. Rachel Volberg presented research activities currently underway and possible research activities that might be undertaken. Mr. Lang questioned what languages were used in the sampling. Dr. Volberg explained the process and how the questionnaires were both in English and Spanish. Mr. Lang asked if Chinese had been considered. Ms. Anthony questioned how anonymity was preserved. Dr. Volberg was urged by Ms. Fitch and Mr. Stein to widen the breadth of languages in which the studies are done. Mr. Messner questioned what use the research is going to be put. Chairman Crosby explained the directive from the legislature. Chairman Crosby also reminded the GPAC that the survey is not just of individuals it also covers socioeconomic impacts, demand on public services, property values, and everything that could be affected by the introduction of expanded gaming.



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Mark Vander Linden presented on the research agenda and the etiology of problem gaming. Mr. Vander Linden talked about the Gaming Research Advisory Committee (GRAC) which had been convened to help guide the Commission and the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee on research matters. As a result of the two meetings of the GRAC, there were two recommendations in the form of motions both were passed unanimously.

Senator Ross read the motion: “This is a motion for the purpose of Mass. General Laws Chapter 23K, Section 71. I move that the Gaming Policy Advisory committee advises the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to add a longitudinal cohort study to its research agenda, that a scientifically-based recommendation be conveyed by the Commission to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the Joint committee on Public Health. I further move that the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee advises the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to continue the scope of its current research agenda into 2014 with the addition of a longitudinal cohort study.”

Upon Motion Made and seconded, it, was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Pinck made a presentation on the evaluation process and review of selection criteria.

Chair Hubbard next discussed Section 68 which talks about the establishment of three subcommittees under the GPAC. They are the community mitigation, addictive services and public safety subcommittees. Follow-up on members to follow.

Chair Hubbard reminded those employed by the state must do the online ethics training program.

There was then a motion to adjourn.

Senator Ross: “so moved”

Representative Ferrante: “Second”

All in favor “aye”.

Motion to adjourn carried.

