



Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: November 5, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
415 Summer Street, Room 107 A/B
Boston, Massachusetts

Present: Chairman Stephen P. Crosby
Commissioner Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Lloyd Macdonald
Commissioner Bruce Stebbins
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga

**Time entries are linked to
corresponding section in
Commission meeting video**

Call to Order

See transcript pages 2-3

[10:34 a.m.](#) Chairman Crosby called to order the 168th Commission Meeting. Chairman Crosby introduced the new Commissioner, retired Judge Lloyd Macdonald, and provided a summary of his professional background. Chairman Crosby acknowledged Mayor Carpenter from the City of Brockton, former Mayor Yunits from the City of Brockton, and (former) Boston City Councilor DiCara. Chairman Crosby announced that the horse racing public hearing at 3:00 p.m. will not be live-streamed.

Administration

See transcript pages 3-11

[10:36 a.m.](#) Commissioner Bruce Stebbins provided an update on the Executive Director search. Commissioner Stebbins reported that over 71 resumes have been received and they are currently interviewing candidates. He also reported on the use of a candidate assessment tool for the Commissioner's consideration.

[10:42 a.m.](#) General Counsel Catherine Blue provided an update on Judge McHugh's post-commission employment. General Counsel Blue reported that Judge McHugh will be an employee, for a limited time, in the Legal Division and will also assist with transition matters.

Ombudsman

See transcript pages 11-145

RFA-2 Application Presentation by Mass Gaming and Entertainment ("MGE")

[10:45 a.m.](#) Attorney John Donnelly, representing MGE, cited a list of presenters for MGE and provided a brief summary of their professional background.

[10:49 a.m.](#) [MGE Video Presentation]

[10:56 a.m.](#) Neil Bluhm, Chairman of Rush Street Gaming, introduced George Carney as a minority partner in the MGE project. Mr. Bluhm stated that he is interested in developing a resort casino in the Southeast region because the Brockton site is a superior location. He stated that the project is expected to do the following: open and operate by the summer or early fall of 2018, produce \$700 million worth of gaming tax revenue over the next ten years, create jobs, and provide school funding and infrastructure. He also stated that the tribal project may not happen due to federal litigation. He provided a summary of his personal and professional background. He stated that his company is a leading developer of gaming facilities and provided highlights of his casino properties in Canada, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and New York.

[11:06 a.m.](#) David Patent, President and Chief Operating Officer of Rush Street Gaming, stated that one of the company's core beliefs is that happy team members and happy customers equal success. He reported that all their properties have been voted as a best place to work by their employees. He also reported that the Rivers Casino in Pittsburg has been voted best overall gaming resort in Pennsylvania for six years in a row.

[11:10 a.m.](#) Mary Cheeks, Chief Financial Officer for two Rush Street Gaming properties in Pennsylvania, stated that the company offers dedicated training and life-changing careers for their team members. She provided an overview of their benefits and commitment to a diverse workforce and the unemployed. She also noted the company's partnerships with community organizations and community colleges.

[11:14 a.m.](#) Wendy Hamilton, General Manager at SugarHouse Casino in Pennsylvania, described their unique interview and application process for selecting great candidates. She also reported on the company's support for local businesses and focus on local neighborhoods.

[11:23 a.m.](#) David Patent provided an overview of the casino project which included the following: location, hotel and resort features, food and beverage options, event space, design elements, New England architecture, site plan,

dedicated green and buffer space, traffic improvements, pedestrian safety, partnerships with local businesses, entertainment destination, creation of quality jobs, and revenue to the City of Brockton. He also noted receipt of confident letters from leading financial institutions.

- [11:37 a.m.](#) Michael Soll, President of the Innovation Group, presented on the economic impacts and projections of a casino in Brockton - with and without a tribal casino in Taunton.
- [11:54 a.m.](#) Neil Bluhm stated that the casino will be successful, even with a tribal casino, because they have a better location and they are used to competition. He also stated that they have consulted with experts in Indian gaming law and there is a possibility that there will not be a casino in Taunton.
- [11:57 a.m.](#) Attorney David Tennant, representing MGE, presented on his review of the Record of Decision (“ROD”) issued by the US Department of Interior. He stated the ROD findings were severely flawed and extremely broad. He also stated that the ROD almost guarantees litigation by local and national citizen groups. He stated that any litigation commenced could last a decade. He also stated that vendors and lenders will not want to engage in a project with pending litigation.
- [12:19 p.m.](#) Mayor Bill Carpenter, representing the City of Brockton, presented on how the casino project will impact the citizens of Brockton. He noted that the casino and revenue will do the following: revitalize a manufacturing city by creating jobs for the unemployed, create an entertainment district, provide needed school funding, spur economic development, provide traffic mitigation, and impact public safety. He noted that Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s have issued negative outlooks on the city’s bond rating. He stated that the only way for Brockton to survive is to get additional sources of revenue. He also stated that a destination resort casino will transform the image of Brockton and the lives of the people of Brockton.
- [12:42 p.m.](#) Neil Bluhm stated that if the Commission issues a license to Brockton it will be a transformative event. He also stated that if the tribe opens a casino, they will be successful because they don’t have to pay taxes. He stated that if the Commission doesn’t issue a license to Brockton it will not hurt him but it will crush Brockton. He stated that he is willing to risk his capital because he believes the project will be successful.
- [12:46 p.m.](#) Commissioner Macdonald asked Mr. Bluhm how his project would be economically viable if the prospect of a tribal casino made the New Bedford project economically unfeasible.
- [12:46 p.m.](#) Neil Bluhm responded that the New Bedford project was too far south and on the water – which cut off the market. He stated that the Brockton location would survive because they have a larger market. He also noted that they have leading banks willing to finance their project.

- [12:50 p.m.](#) The Commission recessed for lunch.
- [1:52 p.m.](#) The meeting resumed.
- [1:53 p.m.](#) Ombudsman Ziemba provided an overview of the MGM Springfield project change proposal and stated that consultants will provide a limited presentation.
- [1:55 p.m.](#) Attorney Jed Nosal, representing MGM Springfield, introduced consultants from Epsilon Associates and The Engineering Corp. who will highlight the MGM Springfield project changes.
- [1:57 p.m.](#) Peggy Briggs, representing Epsilon Associates, provided a history of the environmental filings and current MEPA review status. She also reported that the Notice of Project Change included a decrease in project size, relocation of residential units, relocation and redesign of the hotel, fewer gaming positions, parking decreases, and a delay of opening by one year. She stated that she believes that no further study will be required because the project will be scaled down.
- [2:09 p.m.](#) Kevin Dandrade, representing The Engineering Corp., reported on transportation impacts and noted a drop in trips per day due to reduction in project.

Fantasy Sports

See transcript pages 146-147

- [2:29 p.m.](#) Chairman Crosby provided an update on fantasy sports which included the following: the Commission is drafting an outline for a White Paper for the Legislature and to guide the Commission's work, Commissioner Cameron is putting together a working group of experts, the legal team is gathering information from other jurisdictions, and the Commission is coordinating with the Attorney General's Office.
- [2:31 p.m.](#) Commissioner Cameron noted that she intends to meet with industry companies, operators, and the American Gaming Association to get their input.

Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development

See transcript pages 148-154

- [2:31 p.m.](#) Director Jill Griffin reported on events designed to inform and connect small businesses to opportunities to contract with the gaming industry. She stated that staff from the MGC presented on the licensing process and purchasing opportunities for the Massachusetts Association of Chamber Executives at Plainridge Park Casino. She reported that staff from the MGC spoke to small businesses at Governor Baker's Supplier Diversity Fair. She also reported that the MGC is a co-sponsor for the Collaborative Business Diversity Forum - which will provide a technical assistance workshop for small businesses looking to do business with casinos.

[2:37 p.m.](#) Paul Connelly, Director of Licensing, reported on an event at Plainridge Park Casino to provide vendors with technical assistance and information on the licensing process.

[2:38 p.m.](#) Commissioner Stebbins noted that Plainridge Park Casino is still looking for vendors and suppliers.

Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated

See transcript page 154

[2:39 p.m.](#) *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cameron. Motion seconded by Commissioner Macdonald. Motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated November 5, 2015
2. Mass Gaming & Entertainment, LLC, Presentation dated November 5, 2015
3. Letter from Attorney David Tennant to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, dated November 5, 2015 regarding Region C – Massachusetts Gaming & Entertainment, LLC, Public Hearing November 5, 2015 with attachment
4. Letter from Epsilon Associates to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, dated October 15, 2015 regarding MGM Springfield Notice of Project Change with attachment
5. Letter from Attorney Jed Nosal to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, dated October 29, 2015 regarding MGM Springfield Casino Project, Hotel, Apartments/Armory Square Retail & Cinema, Main Union, State & Howard Streets, Springfield, MA: MHC# RC53951, EEA# 15033 with attachments
6. Collaborative Business Diversity Forum: Joint Venture Workshop flyer

/s/ Catherine Blue

Catherine Blue, Assistant Secretary