



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 19, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. EST

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID: 112 680 4014

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order agenda setting meeting #115 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”).

The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting by roll call. The following Commissioners were present for the meeting:

*Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Eileen O’Brien
Commissioner Bradford R. Hill*

Clarification of Return to Hybrid Policy Date – Karen Wells, Executive Director

Executive Director Wells offered clarification of the date that the new policy has been extended through: February 10, 2022. Ms. Wells anticipates that the Commission may meet to discuss this at the next Agenda setting meeting. Ms. Wells confirmed to Commissioner Cameron and the Commissioners that the return the hybrid work policy for employees would begin the week of February 14, 2022.

Approval of Prior Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes

- a. November 23, 2021
- b. December 8, 2021

Motion to approve by Commissioner O’Brien, Seconded by Commissioner Hill

Commissioners Unanimously Voted 4-0, by two separate Roll Call votes ad seriatim (first November 23, 2021, and then December 8, 2021) on each meeting minute packet in the following order:

<i>Commissioner Gayle Cameron</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Eileen O’Brien</i>	<i>Aye.</i>
<i>Commissioner Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>Aye.</i>

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein

Aye.

Agenda Planning for Upcoming Commission Meetings

The Commission discussed the anticipated agendas for the upcoming Commission meeting scheduled for January 27, 2022, and subsequent meetings described in the attached agenda planning notice, as follows:

Item #1 – Administrative Update

Executive Director Wells stated that existing items for discussion are to include remarks from Mr. Bruce Band on casino operations and updates given by Ms. Wells on the Return-to-Work Update (Hybrid Work Policy) being set to February 14, 2022, as the existing policy lapses on Feb 10, 2022.

Item #2 – Regulations– General Counsel Grossman indicated there are not any regulations or other legal matters in need of public review by the Commission.

Item #3 – Legislative Updates –Counsel Grossman and Ms. Howard confirmed that a Legislative update will not occur at the next meeting, but they are monitoring existing legislative issues.

Item #4 – Covid-19 Update and Office Reopening– Ms. Wells confirmed that this matter will go under the Administrative Update and can be removed from the agenda as its own item. Chair Judd-Stein confirms.

Item #5 – Hiring Authority – Ms. Wells confirmed this matter will be discussed at the January 27 meeting. She confirmed this matter will require a vote and estimated the time of discussion at approximately 30 minutes.

Item #6 – CMF Reserve Applications- Community Affairs Division – Division Chief Delaney anticipated three presentations coming before the Commission. He estimated a total presentation of 30 minutes, also requiring a vote.

Item #7 – Suitability Review Process – This will be discussed at next Public Meeting on January 27.

Item #8 – Assessment of Casinos Impact of Operating Under the Influence (“OUI”), and OUI Collisions – *(Transcriber’s note: Director Vander Linden provided a new name to this Item previously known as “DUI report).* Director Vander Linden confirmed that researcher Christopher Bruce will attend as well. Commissioner O’Brien confirmed this item is slated to occur at the January 27 meeting but clarified that more time may be needed to ensure that the additional questions that were circulated in response to the initial report were answered and incorporated into the presentation.

Item # 9 – Racing Division – Unclaimed Tickets– Dr. Lightbown confirmed this item would go forward and would ask for authorization from the Finance Division to redistribute those funds.

Add-on Item – Racing Division – Suffolk Downs Account Wagering Providers– Dr. Lightbown would also like to add discussion surrounding a request of Suffolk Downs for MGM Racing, “Bet MGM” product usage. Ms. Lillios confirmed that a report would be circulated in advance of the January 27 meeting.

Add-on Item – Racing Division – Discussion of Proof of Vaccination Policy at Suffolk Downs – Dr. Lightbown will give brief update of the policy as it was instituted over the weekend at Suffolk Downs.

Director Lightbown anticipates all three of the above items would take roughly 30 minutes to discuss.

Item #10 – Executive Director Annual Review – Commissioner O’Brien confirmed that the review will occur on January 27.

Prior to continuing with February 10 Agenda Items, Chair Judd-Stein and Ms. Howard discussed additional Commission Public meeting dates will be February 10, March 3, March 17, and a March 31. Agenda Meetings will occur February 2 and 16, and March 2.

Items For Future Meetings – February 10, 2022

Item #11 – Review of Casino Non-Compliance Penalties – Director Lillios stated that item would be presented at the February 10 meeting, with supplemental memos being ready for inclusion in the Commissioner’s Packet by then as well.

Item #12 – Covid Impacts Report– Director Vander Linden confirmed that this item is ready to be discussed at the February 10 meeting, and confirmed Dr. Rachel Volberg from UMass Amherst will attend, possibly with another presenter from the Donahue Institute. The Covid Impacts Report will be added to the Commissioner’s packet.

Item #13 – Mid-Term Finance Review – Chief Financial and Accounting Officer Derek Lennon confirmed this issue will be ready for presentation at the February 10 meeting.

Add-on Item – Community Affairs Division – Applications for Funding Review – Division Chief Delaney would like to present applications for funding review from three community applicants, received at the close of last year by the Community Affairs Division. These matters will require a vote.

Add-on Item – Community Affairs Division – Quarterly Licensee Reports – Division Chief Delaney would also like to begin the Quarterly Report presentations on February 10 towards the end of the meeting. Mr. Delaney requested two separate executive sessions for capital expenditure reports, (one for each licensee) at the February 10 meeting as well. Mr. Delaney anticipates another executive session, discussing the third licensee, and expenditure report will follow the March 3 public meeting. Specific Licensees will be announced in advance of the meeting.

Add-on Item – Responsible Gaming – Game Sense Quarterly Report – Director Vander Linden confirmed that a general update mentioning all three centers at all three gaming establishments will be given at the February 10 meeting.

Additional Items for Under Review:

Item #14 – Gambling Advertising – Mr. Vander Linden confirmed that March 3rd as an optimal date for discussion.

Item # 15 – Responsible Gaming Framework Follow Up – Director Vander Linden requested to keep this item under review at this time.

Item #16 – ILEV Review Process –Mr. Delaney agreed that this item should remain under review for the time being.

Item #17 – MA Cultural Council Report – Chair Judd-Stein confirmed that this item was ready for presentation for either the January 27 or February 10 meeting, depending on the availability of the guest speaker.

Item #18 – Quarterly Licensee Reports – mentioned above in Add-on Item. Ms. Howard will organize the executive sessions are noted in the commission calendars and announced publicly.

Add-On Item – Responsible Gaming– Play My Way and Problem Gambling Awareness Month– Director Vander Linden requested these matters be added to the February Public meeting agenda in advance of Problem Gambling Awareness Month, with supplemental updates given at public meetings in March.

Having no further business, Commissioner Cameron made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, meeting adjourned.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated January 9, 2022
2. Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes – November 23rd, 2021
3. Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes – December 8th, 2021

