



GAMING POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date/Time: March 27, 2018 @ 11:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Place: State House, Room 222, Boston, Massachusetts

Members Present:

Karen Sawyer Conard, Chair	Brian Lang
Stephen P. Crosby	Victor Ortiz
Senator Richard Ross	Louise A. Zawodny
Senator Eric Lesser	Paul Picknelly
Rep. Angelo L. D'Emilia	Jill McCarthy Payne
Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante	David Stein (Invitee)

Call to Order

Chair Karen Sawyer Conard called the seventh meeting of the Gaming Policy Advisory Committee to order at 11:10 a.m. The Chair requested members to introduce themselves as there was full membership present.

The Chair then read M.G.L. §23K c. 71 and highlighted the items on the agenda which include an update by Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chair Stephen Crosby on the Commission, a briefing on the Commission's activities by Edward Bedrosian, Executive Director, construction updates by Joseph Delaney, Construction Oversight Manager, and Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming on the Annual Gaming Research Agenda.

MGC Chair Crosby then began a discussion about gaming service employees. He spoke about how some workers may be inadvertently disqualified from working at a casino establishment for 10 years due to CORI restrictions. These restrictions could have eliminated 1400 jobs being available. Chair Crosby noted that Mr. Lang had brought this restriction up at a previous meeting of the GPAC. Through efforts by the Commission and MGM, 800 service employees are now exempt from the 10 year exclusion.

Chair Crosby then discussed the pending issue of thoroughbred racing. Chair Crosby noted that at the end of June legislators need to come up with something to reorganize the racing industry and the Commission is hopeful that legislators will pass a new law to save the industry.

Chair Crosby then mentioned the inclusion in the meeting packets of the White Paper on sports betting. Although not on the agenda for discussion, he noted that the White Paper was submitted to inform legislators and give them an introduction on sports betting issues.

Chair Crosby invited GPAC members to the 4/26/18 meeting in Springfield that will include a tour of the MGM Springfield Facility.

Chair Crosby then addressed the Wynn Resorts allegations. He noted that investigations are being conducted by the Investigations Enforcement Bureau (“IEB”) and will seek out employees, stockholders; and others in the hierarchy that may have been involved and when and what did they do? The results will be discussed at a Commission meeting where the public will be able to watch the deliberation.

Chair Conard then turned the meeting to a vote on the minutes from the December meeting; it was unanimously voted and seconded by Senator Lesser.

Ed Bedrosian spoke on the MGC suitability for Region A and noted that the Commission is actively and aggressively pursuing this matter as appropriate for the Commission.

Executive Director Bedrosian then discussed what it takes to open a casino while ensuring public confidence in the project, and making sure that the licensee builds the project that the licensee promised. He noted that there is a post-opening certificate and a checklist of conditions. Mr. Bedrosian said that usually there is a high rate of employee turnover for licensee employees the first 30-60 days after opening. Mr. Bedrosian focused on the gaming internal controls, including rules such as cage accounting and how chips get to the. Another important facet is the central monitoring system which is connected to every slot machine, and verifies the slot machine software and revenue count.

Mr. Bedrosian noted that at Plainridge Park Casino the central monitor oversight enables investigators to find clues for money laundering triggers which would then be cause for investigation. Mr. Lang asked if there had been any evidence regarding money laundering. Mr. Bedrosian noted that if it looks funny it is sent to the Attorney General’s office. Mr. Lang asked if the oversight was done by just one person and whether it was their sole job. Mr. Bedrosian noted that employees serve a number of jobs and communicate daily and that it is spread out so not just one person is doing the oversight. Mr. Bedrosian said that there is redundancy in almost all functions to ensure they are done appropriately. He noted also that the State Police and the City of Springfield are close to a Memorandum of Agreement.

Mr. Bedrosian then noted some of the considerations in preparation for the opening of the casino. The preparation includes compliance with license, host and surrounding community agreements, licensee tracking of commitments, diversity and local hiring require training, and any other changes that may be needed to be made. He stated that there were the monthly meetings with MGM executives and regulatory agencies. He said that MGM Springfield will be ready.

Mr. Lang had questions regarding hiring practices and how the goals for construction diversity were performing. Jill Griffin, the Director of Workforce stated that MGM Springfield has exceeded the goals. Mr. Lang asked what the numbers were and mentioned that the number of women is significant. Ms. Griffin did not have the figures available at the meeting. Paul Picknelly noted that MGM Springfield and their commitment to diversity is amazing.

Joseph Delaney the Construction Project Oversight Manager then gave a brief PowerPoint on the MGM and Wynn projects.

Mark Vander Linden gave a brief summary on gaming research deliverables. He noted the focus on 2017 and mentioned to the membership that all research is available on the MassGaming website, which provides links to the various research reports. He noted that the research gets pushed in many directions. The PPC study covers topics such as economic impact, where do employees come from, and status of employees prior to becoming employed.

Mr. Lang inquired where the baseline was established. Mr. Vander Linden explained that it was done with target population studies in the immediate area. In follow up, Mr. Lang asked how do you actually make a determination? Mr. Vander Linden noted that one goes back and does focus on 2019, very specific.

Senator Lesser asked how the potential impacted area was defined. Mr. Vander Linden noted that was through the Host Community Agreement and Surrounding Community Agreements and were limited to those communities. He noted that Springfield added additional regions in their area of study.

Representative D'Emilia asked about Play My Way and that evaluation. Mr. Vander Linden stated that 15000 had enrolled, approximately 10% statistical difference people lose less if using Play My Way. Play My Way has an unenrollment rate of 15%. Representative D'Emilia asked whether the Play My Way can be used for the table games. Mr. Vander Linden answered that there currently was no set up for table games and he noted that Play My Way is just one tool.

Mr. Vander Linden discussed the plan to store and share data. He noted the importance of how we take data and use it. He noted that by 2019 we expect that there will be the ability to share data with other researchers. He mentioned the Shiny App which allows anyone to take a look at and interact with information on demographics, social variables, and economic variables state-wide. Mr. Vander Linden then discussed how these studies can highlight the true costs for individuals with gaming issues. The studies can build on the analyses and the economics by reviewing license plate survey analysis from traffic in and out of PPC. It will show how many people from different states, and how much money is being pulled back into Massachusetts. The patron surveys assist in developing data regarding where patrons are spending money. He noted that there had been lottery impact concerns for protecting state revenues by analyzing expenditures on state lottery at casino and surrounding towns.

There was a discussion concerning the operators of casinos obligation to provide job categories and salaries data publicly. Chairman Crosby noted that some information is confidential. Mr. Lang mentioned that real data is needed to measure employment facility by facility. Senator Lesser asked whether the MGC can make a request that information be supplied. Mr. Lang suggested a blind spreadsheet.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 as there was no longer a quorum

/s/ Mary S. Thurlow
Mary S. Thurlow, Secretary

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda
2. Membership of Gaming Policy Advisory Committees
3. White Paper on Sports Betting
4. Minutes from the December 20, 2017 meeting
5. Minutes from the December 19, 2016 meeting
6. Presentation by Joseph Delaney entitled: "MGM Springfield and Wynn Boston Harbor Construction Update"
7. Gaming Research Update dated March 27, 2018