



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 21, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 1431 1966

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Jordan Maynard

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 461st Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Commissioner Updates](#) (01:07)

Chair Judd-Stein noted that Executive Director Karen Wells would be leaving the Commission on July 14, 2023. Chair Judd-Stein stated that she had asked Chief People and Diversity Officer David Muldrew to review the existing job description for the Executive Director Role, and that the Commission would review the job description on June 29, 2023, in a public meeting.

Chair Judd-Stein stated that she had set up a Screening Committee for the appointment of an Interim Executive Director. She reported to participants that Chief Muldrew and Commissioner Skinner had been asked to assist with the Screening Committee. She stated that the Screening Committee would meet with those in the Commission staff interested in the Interim Executive

Director position and that the Screening Committee would report back to the Commission with updates.

Commissioner O'Brien expressed her preference for the Commission to have a conversation regarding the process for selecting the Interim Executive Director prior to announcing the process publicly. Commissioner Skinner stated that no discussion regarding the process had occurred other than the Chair's request for her to serve on the Screening Committee. She stated that for transparency purposes, the Commission should have a discussion regarding the process for the final candidate. Commissioner O'Brien stated that she would prefer the full Commission be consulted in the selection processes for both the Executive Director and Interim Executive Director Roles.

Chair Judd-Stein noted that she had discussed this decision with outside counsel and was informed that the Chair had the authority to appoint subcommittees. Commissioner Maynard stated that he respected the authority of the Chair to appoint subcommittees, but he was hopeful that each Commissioner would have an equal voice in the decision regarding the process for identifying and selecting a permanent Executive Director.

3. [Community Affairs Division](#) (10:39)

a. Community Mitigation Fund Application Review: Project of Regional Significance – Springfield Mixed Use Parking Infrastructure

Joe Delaney, Chief of the Community Affairs Division explained that the City of Springfield had applied for funds in the amount of \$3,000,000 in the Project of Regional Significance category to build a parking garage across the street from MGM Springfield ("MGM"). He noted that the review team did not recommend funding for that project, as they did not consider it to be regionally significant.

Chief Delaney stated that the Commission had requested that the review team look into other avenues of funding for this project. He stated that the application would fit better in the Transportation Construction Grants category. He noted, however, that there were two issues with applying this request to the Transportation Construction Grants category, as the category had a maximum grant of \$1,500,000 and a requirement the project must begin by June 30, 2024. He explained that Springfield's application requested \$3,000,000 with a start date of June 30, 2025. Chief Delaney stated that if the Commission wanted to provide funding under the Transportation Construction category, it would require waivers on both the cap on funding, and timing of the project.

Chief Delaney reported that the other grants had been voted on in previous meetings and that the total amount of money committed to Region B was \$4,061,200. He stated that the Community Mitigation Fund Guidelines established a maximum grant allocation of \$7,000,000 for Region B. He summated that there was not quite enough funding in Region B to fund the full \$3,000,000 requested for this project.

Commissioner Hill stated that as part of the review team, he stood by the decision to not fund this application as a Project of Regional Significance. He suggested that the application be moved to the Transportation Construction Grant category. Commissioner Hill also suggested that the project be funded at \$1,500,000 with a waiver for the time requirement and noted that Springfield could apply for another Transportation Construction Grant of \$1,500,000 the following year. He stated that this would follow the funding caps in the guidelines, and still provide full funding for Springfield's project. He concluded by noting that the project was related to an impact from the casino, that the project addressed that impact, and that the total funding of \$3,000,000 was also less than one-third of the total project cost.

Commissioner Skinner stated that this was an excellent project and she supported what Commissioner Hill proposed. She expressed that the Commission should not revisit its initial determination that the project was not one of Regional Significance, but that the project could still be funded through a Transportation Construction Grant. Commissioner O'Brien agreed and stated that funding this project from the Transportation Construction Grants category was more consistent with the grant structures.

Commissioner Maynard asked how much money was available for Region B. Chief Delaney stated that \$2,938,800 remained available. Commissioner Maynard stated that this was a fantastic project that Springfield would benefit from and expressed support for funding it.

Chair Judd-Stein inquired whether Springfield needed additional funds above the \$1,500,000 before the next Community Mitigation Funds grant round, if they would be able to come to the Commission to request those funds. Chief Delaney stated that the project was not planned to start until June 2025, and it was exceedingly unlikely that they would need additional funds prior to the next round of grants starting in six months.

Commissioner Skinner asked what the total cost of the project would be. Chief Delaney stated that the total cost was approximately \$30,000,000. Commissioner Skinner noted that other grants had conditions placed upon funding and asked if that was something to be considered for this project. Chief Delaney noted that the City of Springfield could not go out to bid unless the sources of funding were in place. He stated that the grant instrument outlined requirements for Transportation Construction Grants, and that the City of Springfield would have to submit their documents and contracts to the Community Mitigation Division. He stated that the grant instrument should suffice and that additional conditions were not necessary.

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the Commission had received letters from the Mayor of Springfield in support of this project. She expressed her view that the revitalization of Springfield had a profound impact on the region, and she believed it to be a regionally significant project. Chief Delaney noted that the Commission had waived the required timeline for projects in Revere and Saugus in the past. He stated that the suggestion by Commissioner Hill was consistent with past practices.

Commissioner Hill moved that with respect to the application from the City of Springfield for funding from the Community Mitigation Fund, the Commission waive the requirement for the Transportation Construction Grants as included in the 2023 Community Mitigation Fund guidelines requiring that applicants demonstrate that the project will begin construction no later than June 30, 2024, and that the Commission extend the deadline until June 30, 2025; and further moved that the Commission approve the application in the amount of \$1,500,000 as a Transportation Construction Grant for the purposes described in the submitted application and for the reasons discussed here today, and that the Commission staff be authorized to execute a grant instrument commemorating this award in accordance with 205 CMR 153.04. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

4. [Other Business](#) (32:10)

Hearing no other business, Chair Judd-Stein requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Hill moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maynard.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Revised Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated June 16, 2023
2. [Commissioner's Packet](#) from the June 21, 2023, meeting (posted on massgaming.com)