



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Agenda Setting Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: June 30, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
Place: VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112-777-0084

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order the 104th Agenda Setting meeting. She noted that given the unprecedented circumstances resulting from the global Coronavirus pandemic, Governor Baker issued an order to provide limited relief from certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to protect the health and safety of individuals interested in attending public meetings. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Commission conducted a public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.

The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting by Roll Call. The following Commissioners were in attendance:

*Commissioner Cameron
Commissioner O'Brien
Commissioner Zuniga
Chair Judd-Stein*

Approval of Agenda Setting Minutes

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the agenda setting meeting minutes from May 26, 2021, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters.

Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Commissioner Cameron Aye
Commissioner O'Brien Aye
Commissioner Zuniga Aye
Chair Judd-Stein Aye*

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the agenda setting meeting minutes from June 6, 2021, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

*Commissioner Cameron Aye
Commissioner O'Brien Aye
Commissioner Zuniga Aye
Chair Judd-Stein Aye*

The motion passed unanimously.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

Agenda Planning for Upcoming Commission Meetings

The Commission discussed the anticipated agenda for the upcoming Commission meeting scheduled for July 15, 2021, and subsequent meetings as described in the attached agenda planning notes, as follows:

Item #1 – Administrative Update – Executive Director Karen Wells stated that she had two matters to present before the Commission. (1) An update from IEB; and (2) an update regarding diversity.

Add-on — Chair Judd-Stein added an update regarding the Commission’s return to work plan.

Item #2 – Regulations – Associate General Counsel Carrie Torrisi indicated that there are not any regulations or other legal matters in need of public review by the Commission at this time.

Item #3 – Legislative Updates – Director Wells indicated that she was not aware of any legislative updates, but would let the Commission know before the agenda is posted if an issue arises.

Item #4 – Race Horse Development Benefits for Drivers and Jockeys – Director of Racing Dr. Alexandra Lightbown requested that this item be moved to the July 29, 2021 agenda because a member of the group is not available on July 15th. Chair Judd-Stein asked if 2x2s will be required and Dr. Lightbown replied in the affirmative.

Item #5 – MGC Employee Vendor and Diversity – Director Wells indicated that this item will be ready for the July 15th meeting.

Item #6 – Responsible Gaming Framework Follow-Up – Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden recommended placing this item under review. He would like to spend more time on the presentation, as it is not just a matter of updating the research.

Add-on — Director Vander Linden requested adding a GameSense quarterly update for all three properties to the July 15th agenda. He also requested adding a general research update regarding upcoming research reports and the FY22 research plan to the same meeting.

Add-on — Chair Judd-Stein noted that she would like to lead the July 15th meeting with a public tribute to Detective Captain Connors.

Future Meetings

Chair Judd-Stein inquired into whether there were other items for the July 29, 2021 meeting.

Chief of the Division of Licensing Nakisha Skinner requested adding an item concerning MGM’s gaming beverage license, which is expiring in August.

Chief of the Division of Community Affairs Joe Delaney indicated that the licensees may be able to start their quarterly reports at the July 29th meeting. He will reach out to them to see if two quarterly reports can be given on that date, with the remainder in August.

Commissioners Zuniga and Cameron noted that they will both be on vacation the week of August 12, 2021, when the next meeting is scheduled to take place. Commissioner O'Brien is likely out of the office the two weeks after that. The Commissioners decided to move the August meeting to August 19, 2021. There will not be a meeting on August 12th or August 26th. The agenda-setting meeting for the August 19th meeting will be on August 4, 2021.

Item #7 – ILEV Review Process – Commissioner Zuniga stated that he would like to keep this item under review for the time being. It may not become an agenda item.

Item #8 – MGM REIT Interim Authorizations – Director of the IEB Loretta Lillios indicating that this issue is ongoing and she is waiting for the complete application package. Once she has the package she can identify a timeline for completion.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if there was a suitability report coming up. Ms. Lillios said that there will be a qualifier for Penn National. The IEB will provide the report in advance of the next agenda setting meeting so the Commissioners can review it and decide whether to move forward with a public process or an adjudicatory hearing. Chair Judd-Stein asked legal and Ms. Lillios to coordinate and memorialize the process.

Item #9 – Hiring Authority – Executive Director – Chair Judd-Stein indicated that this item will remain under review. It may be ready for the end of July or August.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if there was anything else to add to under review.

Mr. Delaney stated that several items will come up after Labor Day regarding community mitigation fund guidelines. Chair Judd-Stein indicated that they could be placed under review, but without individual items.

Director Wells stated that Director of Diversity and Legislative Affairs Jill Griffin's impact report could be added to the July 15th agenda.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if there should be a horse racing annual report under review. Dr. Lightbown said that yes, it could be placed under review.

Director Wells stated that she would like to work with finance regarding raises for the team, with a possible presentation on July 29, 2021.

Commissioner Zuniga noted that the Commission is slated for a budget update sometime in July or August. CFO Derek Lennon stated that budget updates are usually presented during the first or second meeting in September after books close for the fiscal year.

Mr. Vander Linden stated that a report is coming from the SEIGMA team regarding gambling harms and the prevention paradox. He will likely ask to add that to an August, or possibly September, meeting.

Mr. Vander Linden also stated that at some point there will be a presentation regarding problem gambling initiatives to serve Asian-American and Pacific Island (AAPI) communities. Chair Judd-Stein asked if it was possible to collaborate on that with DPH or other community members. Director of Communications Elaine Driscoll stated that they are working through the details. Mr. Vander Linden said it can be kept under review for now.

Mr. Vander Linden also noted that there are several research reports entering their final stages and he is working with their research terms to be thoughtful in staging the release of the reports. There will be more coming on this.

Commissioner Cameron noted that she will provide an update regarding the IAGR/IMGL conference when it is appropriate. Chair Judd-Stein said that it can be placed under review for now.

Ms. Lillios added that there will be an update regarding a civil administrative penalty that issued for a vendor for the July 15th meeting.

Chair Judd-Stein said that in the past Commissioner have conducted suitability hearings regarding the process for fines. She thinks it makes sense to review the process. She would like to put this under review, perhaps for the July 29th meeting, but no later than August.

Having no further business, Commissioner Zuniga moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Cameron: Aye.

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Zuniga: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated June 30, 2021
2. Massachusetts Gaming Commission, Agenda Planning Notes