



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 21, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

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

Given the unprecedented circumstances, Governor Charles Baker issued an order to provide limited relief from certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law to protect the health and safety of the public and individuals interested in attending public meetings during the global Coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with the guidance provided, the Commission conducted this public meeting utilizing remote collaboration technology.

Call to Order

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein called to order agenda setting meeting #105 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (“Commission”).

The Chair confirmed a quorum for the meeting with a Roll Call. The following Commissioners were present:

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

Approval of Agenda Setting Minutes

Commissioner O’Brien moved to approve agenda setting meeting minutes from June 30, 2021, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

<i>Commissioner Cameron</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner O’Brien</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Commissioner Zuniga</i>	<i>Aye</i>
<i>Chair Judd-Stein</i>	<i>Aye</i>

The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Planning for Upcoming Commission Meetings

The Commission discussed the anticipated agenda for the upcoming Commission meeting scheduled for July 29, 2021, and subsequent meetings as described in the attached agenda planning notes, as follows:

Item #1 – Administrative Update- Executive Director Wells stated that she had three matters to present before the Commission. (1) an update regarding diversity and legislative affairs from Director of Diversity and Legislative Affairs Jill Griffin and Crystal Howard; (2) an onsite casino update from IEB Director Loretta Lillios and Assistant IEB Director and Gaming Agents Chief Bruce Band; (3) a return to work update; and (4) recognition of Jill Griffin.

Add-on - Ms. Wells is working together with Mr. Lennon regarding staff salary increases.

Add-on - Chair Judd-Stein wanted to recognize Lieutenant Baker and his efforts concerning community outreach around Encore Boston Harbor.

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- Ms. Griffin indicated there were not any new updates to report but she could provide a brief update regarding the letter that was sent concerning sports betting bill.

Item #4 – Race Horse Development Benefits for Drivers and Jockeys – Director of Racing Dr. Alexandra Lightbown asked that this item be scheduled for the August meeting.

Item #5 –MGM Beverage License Renewal- Licensing Division Chief Nakisha Skinner stated that this item will be ready for the public meeting. This item requires a vote.

Item #6- Licensee Quarterly Reports- Community Affairs Division Chief Joe Delaney stated that this item is ready. Plainridge Park Casino and Encore Boston Harbor will be presenting their quarterly reports.

Item #7 –MGC Annual Salary Review – Chair Judd-Stein stated this should probably be kept as its own item for the meeting.

Add-on – Inquiries regarding poker and the increase of submissions related to why poker rooms are not open.

Additional Items - Chair Judd- Stein stated that Commissioner O’Brien had an update from the independent monitor team and they would like to present sometime before the end of September.

Ms. Hartigan stated that the IEB has a qualifier for Penn National that will be ready for the next public meeting.

Director of Research and Responsible Gaming Mark Vander Linden requested adding an item regarding several awards to be presented to multiple Massachusetts recipients, including Commissioner Zuniga, at the National Council on Problem Gambling conference.

Dr. Lightbown requested adding an item regarding quarterly local aid payments to the July 29th meeting. A vote would be required.

Ms. Griffin requested adding an item for a guest speaker from B.E.C.M.A, one of the Commissions diversity partners, to briefly speak about a new partnership and how they can assist with internal and casino diversity work.

Future meetings – Under Review

Item #8-IAGR Conference Update – Commissioner Cameron anticipates providing an update in August.

Add-On Item - Ms. Lillios stated that the IEB has a qualifier for a suitability determination for Plainridge Park Casino.

Item #9- CMF Guidelines – Mr. Delaney stated this item is a place holder and will take place sometime in September.

Item #10 – Responsible Gaming Framework Follow-up – Mr. Vander Linden requested to keep this item under review at this time.

Item #11- Gambling Harms and the Prevention Paradox in MA (SEIGMA Team) – Mr. Vander Linden stated that they were looking at the first meeting in September for this item.

Item #12 –Problem Gambling Initiatives to Serve Asian Amer. and Pacific Islander Communities (DPH, Office of Problem Gambling Serv.)– Mr. Vander Linden stated this is a one pager that he is doing alongside Victor Ortiz and confirmed with Mr. Ortiz that he is available on August 19th.

Item #13 –Review of Assessment of Civil Administrative Penalties– Chair Judd-Stein stated that this item is under review but will likely be addressed before the end of September.

Item #14 -. Horse Racing Annual Report- Dr. Lightbown stated this item would be ready for August 19th meeting.

Item #15- ILEV Review Process- Commissioner Zuniga stated that this item is still being worked on.

Add-on - Chair Judd-Stein stated that she would like to add an update from the Mass Cultural Council, and in particular how it has been using gaming revenues and plans to use them in the future, as under review.

Item #16- MGM REIT Interim Authorizations- Ms. Hartigan stated that this item will stay under review.

Item #17- Hiring Authority – Executive Director- Chair Judd-Stein stated that this item is under review and can likely be addressed at the August 19th meeting.

Add-on - Mr. Band requested adding an item for the August 19th meeting regarding Encore's request to modify the casino floor and gaming area.

Mr. Vander Linden would like to add an update for Play My Way to the August 19th meeting.

Ms. Thurlow requested that an item regarding reserve applications be added as under review.

Ms. Flores-Pajot requested that an item regarding the Magic Report be added.

Having no further business, Commissioner Zuniga moved to adjourn the meeting. 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.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated July 19, 2021.
2. Draft Commission Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2021