



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: November 8, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission
101 Federal Street, 12th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

Present: Interim Chairwoman Gayle Cameron
Commissioner Enrique Zuniga
Commissioner Bruce Stebbins
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

**Time entries are linked to
corresponding section in
Commission meeting video, now with
closed-captioning.**



Call to Order

See transcript page 1

10:00 a.m. Interim Chairwoman Cameron called to order public meeting #255 of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

Approval of Minutes

See transcript page 1

10:01 a.m. *Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the minutes from the October 25th Commission Meeting, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 – 0.*

Administrative Update

See transcript page 1

10:01 a.m. Interim Chairwoman Cameron advised the Commission that Executive Director Ed Bedrosian was working on a matter, and would arrive later to give that review. General Counsel Catherine Blue updated the Commission, stating that Director Bedrosian has advised that the meeting can proceed with the agenda as it stands.

Ombudsman

See transcript pages 1 - 6

10:02 a.m. **Plainridge Park Casino (PPC) Quarterly Report**

The Commission reviewed the Plainridge Park Casino Q3 Quarterly Report with Ombudsman John Ziemba, Lance George, General Manager of PPC, Michele Collins, Vice President of Marketing for PPC, and Kim Rego, Vice President of Human Resources for PPC.

Mr. George presented PowerPoint slides reviewing statistics for gaming revenue and taxes, lottery sales, spending by state, local spending, vendor diversity spending, and compliance for 2017 and 2018. Ms. Rego explained employee retention and diversity statistics, and reported on a women's expo that was held in Q3 entitled "Women Leading at Penn". Ms. Rego stated that PPC plans to implement a leadership courage session and a negotiation skills session in Q4. Ms. Collins reviewed events recently held in the local community, as well as business sponsorships, and highlighted PPC's marketing efforts.

Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development

See transcript pages 6 - 16

10:20 a.m. **Western Massachusetts Workforce Training Update**

Jill Griffin, Director of Workforce, Supplier and Diversity updated the Commission on the status of the Western Massachusetts Workforce Training programs. With her was Jeffrey Hayden, Vice President of Business & Community Service at Holyoke Community College, Michele Cabral, Executive Director of Massachusetts Casino Careers Training Institute, Matt Szetela, a student at the Massachusetts Casino Careers Training Institute.

Mr. Hayden presented slides that described several programs being implemented through Springfield Public Schools, Springfield Technical Community College, and Holyoke Community College. He stated that these successful programs are enabling students to achieve certificates of high school equivalency with some graduates enrolling in college, as well as hospitality training certifications, and gaming school scholarships.

Mr. Szetela described his experience with the line cook program he completed and how it has impacted him and his family in positive ways.

10:52 a.m. **Hospitality Sector Training Request for Proposals (RFP)**

The Commission has released a RFP called the Hospitality Sector Pipeline Workforce Grant Program. This program is designed to support and place unemployed and underemployed Massachusetts residents into quality jobs in the hospitality sector, and establish career ladders leading to living wages. The deadline for submission is November 28, 2018. The RFP is posted in COMMBUYS (the State's online procurement platform that links public

purchasers in search of products and services with vendors who are able to provide them).

Racing Division

See Transcript Pages 16 - 27

11:07 a.m. **2019 Racing Applications Decisions**

The Racing Division asked that the Commission approve the application of Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC (Plainridge Racecourse) to conduct 108 days of harness racing from April 8th through November 29th.

It was recommended that the Commission require as conditions that Plainridge Racecourse have an independent expert review the track surface prior to racing, and that Plainridge provide their new purse agreement to the Commission.

11:12 a.m. *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the application of Plainville Gaming and Redevelopment, LLC for live harness horse racing in 2019 with the conditions applied as recommended (see above). Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.
The motion was approved 4 – 0.*

The Racing Division also asked that the Commission approve the application of Sterling Suffolk Racecourse, LLC (Suffolk Downs) to conduct 4 days of running horse racing on May 18th and 19th, and June 15th and 16th, with the possibility of adding days.

It was recommended the Commission require as conditions that Suffolk Downs have an independent expert review the track surface prior to racing; that Suffolk Downs request in writing to the Commission how much money they would like from the Race Horse Development Fund and indicate how it will be spent; that Suffolk Downs notify the Commission in writing if they are going to race more than the four days, at least 30 days before the races are conducted; and that Suffolk Downs provide their purse agreement to the Commission.

Commissioner Stebbins advised that a condition should be attached to this stating that once plans are finalized, that the plans be shared with the Commission for review. Also, he suggested that the building inspector should sign-off on or provide a report stating that the ongoing work on the site outside of the track will not be of any risk to racing or use of other facilities in that area.

Commissioner Zuniga concurred that he would be interested in a condition being implemented that would ensure the public, the employees', and the horse's safety during construction. He also stated that he would like to be informed a week ahead of time from Dr. Lightbown regarding the staff's status in fulfilling their regulatory duties while improvements are being made to the facility. However, Commissioner Zuniga also added that he was generally not in

favor of this application in light of the fact that the application did not maximize the benefits to the Commonwealth.

[11:35 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the application for racing in 2019 by Sterling Suffolk Race Course LLC with the conditions as outlined in the packet, as well as the addition of a fifth condition stating that any construction, development or demolition plans be shared with the Commission, and that a review by a local building inspector is conducted. As any construction, development or demolition permits are subject to review by the Commission, the Commission maintains ultimate authority to decide whether racing is allowed, depending on those conditions. Commissioner O'Brien moved to further amend the recommendation to clarify that it would be subject to further Commission approval based on the criterion set forth in the fifth condition. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion, based on her amendment. The Motion was approved 3 – 1 with Commissioner Zuniga dissenting.*

[11:36 a.m.](#) **Suffolk Downs Request for Capital Improvement Fund Consideration**

The Commission reviewed a request from Suffolk Downs Racecourse for consideration of an expenditure of \$94,046.17 from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund for alterations, additions, replacements, changes, improvements, and major repairs that were made in 2017.

Dr. Alexandra Lightbown introduced Chad Bourque, Senior Financial Analyst to the Commissioners. Mr. Bourque was welcomed by Interim Chairwoman Cameron, and went on to summarize the provisions of the Capital Improvement Trust Fund as well as Suffolk Downs' request. Interim Chairwoman Cameron stated that it appears to her that all the appropriate approvals are accompanying each of the requests. Mr. Bourque confirmed.

[11:43 a.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the request for consideration of the Suffolk Downs Capital Improvement Trust Fund projects, as outlined in the packet as either construction or demolition. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. The Motion passed 4 – 0.*

[11:44 a.m.](#) **Quarterly Local Aid Payments**

The Racing Division requested approval for a quarterly payment in the amount of \$175,321.72, to be divided and distributed appropriately (amounts computed at .35% times amounts wagered during the quarter ending six months prior to the payment) to each city and town within which racing activities are conducted in Massachusetts.

[11:46 a.m.](#) *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the local aid quarterly payments through September 30th, 2018, as included in the packet. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 – 0.*

Administrative Update

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11:46 a.m. General Update

Executive Director Ed Bedrosian reported that Steve Wynn filed a lawsuit regarding the Investigation and Enforcement Bureau (IEB)'s investigation into Wynn Resorts. Director Bedrosian noted that the Commission will not be able to see the IEB's investigatory report until the issues are resolved. The Commissioners will wait for further updates and recommendation on further procedure.

Commissioner's Updates

See transcript pages 29

11:59 a.m. Commissioner Stebbins thanked Director Jill Griffin and Crystal Howard, Program Coordinator for Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development for organizing an event that they organized and hosted at the Commission. The event was highlighting National Veteran Small Business Week and organized to inform veteran organizations and stakeholders about opportunities to do business with the gaming licensees.

12:00 p.m. *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Zuniga. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated November 8, 2018
2. Meeting Minutes Draft, dated October 25, 2018
3. Plainridge Park Casino Q3 2018 Report
4. Western MA Workforce Training Update – Region B dated November 8, 2018
5. Hospitality Sector Pipeline Workforce Grant Program Request for Proposals (RFP)
6. Memo RE: Applications to Conduct Live Horse Racing in 2019 dated November 5, 2018
7. Memo RE: Request for Consideration, Suffolk Downs Capital Improvement Trust Fund dated November 5, 2018
8. Memo RE: Local Aid Distribution dated November 5, 2018

/s/ Catherine Blue
Assistant Secretary