



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: December 20, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

Place: MassMutual Center
1277 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103

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.**



Call to Order

See transcript page 1

[10:00 a.m.](#) Interim Chairwoman Cameron called to order public meeting #257 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 December 6, 2018 Commission Meeting, subject to correction for typographical errors and other nonmaterial matters. Commissioner Zuniga seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4 – 0.*

Administrative Update

See transcript pages 1 - 19

[10:01 a.m.](#) **General Update**

Executive Director Ed Bedrosian updated the Commission on the Wynn litigation. The parties are back in court today, and Director Bedrosian will brief the Commission upon notification of status.

Region C Update

The Commission posted questions for public comment for a 45 day period that has expired. Director Bedrosian directed the Commissioners to the comments in their packet, and asked them to review the comments over the holidays so they could discuss Region C at the next Commission meeting.

Budget Update/Review

There will be a mid-year budget review at the first meeting in January and that will give Director Bedrosian and the Chief Financial Officer, Derek Lennon a chance to talk to staff and licensees before that meeting. No vote on this will be needed today.

After-Action Report, Post-MGM Opening

Joe Delaney, Construction Oversight Manager reviewed slides illustrating the progress of the construction project, as well as the tracking sheets following progress of infrastructure commitments.

Burke Cain, Field Manager of Gaming Operations/Deputy Gaming Agent Division Chief, summarized the duties of the gaming agents and the roles that key people played in collaborating with the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB) on security efforts in all areas of the casino opening. He also reported on the gaming school, and other programs implemented during the pre-opening time.

Paul Connelly, Licensing Director, reviewed the process that the Licensing division implemented to open MGM Springfield. He reported the use of new software, and the launch of a public website portal to enable candidates to apply online for a gaming license or registration. He reported on the coordination around MGM hiring events and working with MGM Human Resources, collaboration with the Massachusetts State Police on the fingerprinting process, and the procurement of an on-site MGC Licensing staff member at MGM Springfield.

Executive Director Bedrosian and the Commissioners thanked Director Connelly for his hard work and dedication throughout his career at the Gaming Commission, as he will be departing the Commission. The Commissioners wished him the best of luck in his new endeavors, and Director Connelly stated that it has been a pleasure to work for the Commission.

[10:52 a.m.](#) Commissioner Zuniga commented that now that many new systems are in place from all the planning of opening the first casino, the Commission needs

to shift its focus to the current license review and what the Commission needs to plan for as it moves forward for the Region A license.

Director Bedrosian proposed coming back to the Commission at the first meeting in January to discuss the budget review as well as the parallel path preparations (to mirror the successful Region B license preparations) for the Region A license.

10:57 a.m. **MGM Opening 90-Day Review Items**

The Commission reviewed audits of the outdoor plaza and the interior crosswalk (“X” pathway) at MGM Springfield.

MGM Springfield’s Outdoor Plaza has been activated very well in terms of the Commission’s concerns about alcohol, with no major incidents reported. Mr. Cain commented on the Commission’s successful collaboration with MGM Springfield regarding security, camera coverage, staffing for special events, and plaza inspections. MGM Springfield staff commented on their positive experience as they made their efforts to comply with the Commission.

The crosswalks on the gaming floor (non-gaming space) were removed due to concern of minors being on the gaming floor. The IEB is working closely with security regarding minors on the gaming floor, and there are some investigations underway. There are challenges to this location that a traditional casino does not have, in terms of it being in an urban area with a very porous gaming floor and many attractions that create a challenging environment for enforcement. Mr. Mathis stated that he supports Director Bedrosian’s decision to remove the crosswalks, and expressed that his effort is effective.

Director Bedrosian will bookmark this issue for another 90 days and bring it back to the Commission for another review after monitoring.

Ombudsman

See transcript pages 19 - 34

11:26 a.m. **MGM Quarterly Report**

The Commission reviewed the Massachusetts Gaming Commission Quarterly Report Presentation for the Third Quarter of 2018. Ombudsman John Ziemba introduced Mike Mathis, President and COO of MGM Springfield to present.

Mr. Mathis reviewed the first six weeks of operation after the grand opening, and reported statistics. A few statistics mentioned were that MGM Springfield received 1,000,000 visitors and served 11,500 meals. The Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) was \$36.5 million, and \$9.125 million were paid in taxes.

As of October 2018, MGM Springfield has 2,865 employees. Statistics showing how many Springfield residents, women, minorities, and veterans were reported.

Alex Dixon, General Manager of MGM Springfield introduced their new Transportation Coordinator, Nicolaos Panteleakis, who will implement the established public transportation initiatives for employees and patrons. Mr. Dixon reviewed current initiatives with the Commission, to include management of the demand for transportation and parking.

Talia Spera, MGM Springfield's Executive Director of Entertainment, reported on the activity in the Plaza from August through October of 2018, highlighting events and concerts that were held. She then reviewed MGM Springfield's current and upcoming entertainment offerings.

Brian Packer, Vice President of Construction and Development for MGM Springfield, presented his construction update to the Commission.

Workforce Diversity Statistics totals as of September 30, 2018 regarding women, minorities, and veterans were reported. Approximately 35% are from Springfield and the surrounding communities, 55% are from western Massachusetts, and 71% are from Massachusetts.

Todd Megrath, Executive Director of Sustainable Development for MGM Resorts International, presented his LEED & Solar Update to the Commission. The resort and hotel are currently anticipated to receive at minimum, the Gold-level LEED award. The Armory and Chapel are anticipated to earn a possible Gold-level award by February of 2019, while the MGM Daycare project is anticipated to earn a Platinum-level New Construction award in February of 2019.

Greenhouse gas emissions were reported, as well as an update on MGM's partnership with GE Solar and Eversource, and its participation/registration with the SMART incentive program by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

Mr. Mathis reported on upcoming projects for residential and economic development in the area, as well as a timeline for a new Wahlburgers restaurant.

Research and Responsible Gaming

See transcript pages 34 - 44

12:31 p.m. GameSense – MGM Report

The Commission reviewed the GameSense MGM Year-End Update, presented by Teresa Fiore, Program Manager of Research and Responsible Gaming. Ms.

Fiore reported that the Commission executed a comprehensive communications and marketing campaign to coincide with the opening of MGM Springfield.

The GameSense program is described as being designed to promote positive play and reduce gambling-related harm. The Commission reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with statistics, demonstrating the different elements of the program that have been implemented, making it effective.

Marlene Warner, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, stated that GameSense Advisors assisted with 87% of Self-Exclusion enrollments at MGM Springfield, and described the process and efforts that were made to establish the GameSense program as we see it is today.

Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development

See transcript pages 44 - 47

1:10 p.m. **Workforce Pilot Mitigation Fund Grant Amendment Request**

Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) is requesting a budget amendment that it believes will provide the Hampden Prep (HP) program with the leverage to increase enrollment numbers, provide a more active and consistent advising model for day and evening students, purposefully introduce students to career pathways, and engage students prior to, during and after completing the HP Program at STCC. STCC has indicated that approval of this amendment request would provide consistent advising of day and evening students and enhance service delivery to its participants.

Ombudsman Ziemba added clarification regarding the purpose of this grant, and that its disbursement needs to be for causes directly connected to casino or to ones affected by a casino. He is recommending that the Commission move forward with the approval of STCC's request to open the HP program to the level of 2 (see transcript page 44), but to closely monitor it. He is recommending that funds for the Career Development Day do not come out of the grant, as the Commission is not primarily a workforce training organization.

Commissioner Stebbins asked where the money for the amendments to the grant is being re-allocated from. The response was that the funds are coming from salaries, as there were significant savings accumulated due to late hiring, as the program had a later than anticipated start.

1:22 p.m. *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the budget changes as recommended for the Hamden program as included in the packet with the one exception of the career development day \$1800.00 expense. Commissioner Zuniga seconded the motion.*

The Motion passed 4 – 0.

Legal Division

See transcript pages 47 - 48

[1:56 p.m.](#) **Encore Boston Harbor Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) Request**
The Commission reviewed Encore Boston Harbor's request for a NDA. General Counsel Catherine Blue indicated that all of the Commission's licensees under the current statute are entitled to ask for a NDA, and the other licensees already have theirs in place. This NDA template has been approved by the Commission, so General Counsel Blue is asking for approval of this NDA for Encore Boston Harbor as a routine matter for a category 1 gaming establishment.

[2:00 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the Non-Disclosure Agreement with Wynn Mass LLC as presented in the packet, to include the caveat set forth that the legal division consult with Commissioner O'Brien in the event of disclosure. Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion.*
The Motion passed 4 – 0.

Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development (con't)

See transcript pages 48 - 53

[1:59 p.m.](#) **2017 Casino Industry Diversity Impact Report**
The Commission reviewed a report, presented by Jill Griffin, Director of Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development on the impact that the casino industry has had on Massachusetts for 2017. Specifically, both the operations and construction phases of three casinos have contributed significantly to workforce opportunities for Massachusetts residents and business owners, as well as minorities, veterans, women, and business owners. There have also been significant economic impacts.

Crystal Howard, Program Manager, presented statistics for diversity employment and diverse-owned businesses in Massachusetts.

Interim Chairwoman Cameron requested that a copy of their report be provided to the Commission's appointing authorities as well.

[2:11 p.m.](#) **Hospitality Sector Pipeline Workforce Grant Program**
Jill Griffin updated the Commission on the Hospitality Sector Pipeline Grant. The Commission released a Request for Proposal (RFP) in October, and proposals were due on November 28th. There were 11 responses, totaling \$419,000. Applicants were required to include partnerships with a minimum of two businesses in Massachusetts. The program places unemployed MA residents into quality jobs. Applicants also had to demonstrate that these were in fact quality jobs with career ladders.

Ms. Howard announced the two grantees: Holyoke Community College and Jewish Vocational Services (JVS), and described the services they would receive.

Commissioner's Updates

See transcript pages 53 - 54

2:19 p.m. **2018 Massachusetts Gaming Commission Annual Report**

As the report has not gone to final production as of yet, Commissioner Zuniga asked the staff for any suggestions, amendments, and/or corrections before he submits it. He thanked everyone on staff who contributed to this report.

2:22 p.m. *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Zuniga. Commissioner Stebbins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated December 20, 2018
2. Draft Commission Meeting Minutes, dated December 6, 2018
3. Region C Comments (Combined PDF)
4. Report – IEB Plaza Audits: First 90 Days
5. Report – IEB Crosswalk Review: First 90 Days
6. MGM Springfield Quarterly Status Report #15
7. GameSense MGM Year-End Update
8. Encore Draft NDA for MGC Review and Execution
9. Report – Casino Industry Impact
10. Memo – Community Mitigation Fund, Workforce Development Pilot Program Amendment Request
11. Hampden Prep Program / Springfield Technical Community College / Budget Amendment Narrative
12. Memo – Hospitality Sector Pipeline Workforce Grant Program – Update
13. MGC 2018 Annual Report

/s/ Catherine Blue
Assistant Secretary