



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 10, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Absent: Chairman Steve Crosby

**Time entries are linked to
corresponding section in
Commission meeting video**

Call to Order

See transcript page 2

[10:00 a.m.](#) Commissioner Cameron called to order the 242nd Commission meeting.

Approval of Minutes

See transcript pages 2

Commissioner Stebbins moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 26, 2018 in Springfield, MA, 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 3 - 9

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

Ed Bedrosian, Executive Director reported that he is planning to have a summer staff meeting in June. There will be an updated training program for gaming agents and the Gaming Enforcement Unit in preparation for MGM Springfield's opening. He also reported that as racing season has re-started, there have been

18 re-hires. There have been several internal promotions, as well as the following new-hires:

Tad Stockman, Steward/Judge
Holly Cantell, Supervising Gaming Agent
Heidi Laurenao, Gaming Agent
Chris Johnston, Gaming Agent
Jessica Ofurie, Financial Intern
Scott Helwig, Gaming Compliance Manager
Dustin Nigro, Gaming Agent

MGM – Opening Update.

Executive Director Bedrosian gave an update on preparations for the opening of MGM Springfield. He specified that there is utility work being done on the surrounding streets, as well as gaming equipment arriving inside the casino and the gaming agents are preparing to begin testing the equipment. All slot machines are expected to be tested and verified that they are in working order with the casino management systems by the end of June.

Regulatory responsibilities have been confirmed by the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB) to be on track. Executive Director Bedrosian anticipated either a partial or full liquor license submission from MGM Springfield by the next Commission meeting on May 24th, to be followed by a vote sometime in June.

Research and Responsible Gaming

See transcript pages 9 - 90

10:08 a.m. **Responsible Gaming Framework**

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming, requested that the Commission approve version two of the Responsible Gaming Framework. The updated version is a result of obtaining additional evidence. It contains updated key principles and concepts, an expanded number of responsible gaming strategies, updated content within strategies, a new look and feel to the document, and increased user-friendliness.

The concept of ‘Positive Play’ as a guiding principle, as well as a ‘Stepped Care Approach’ comprised of seven broad strategies were discussed, as they have been integrated into the framework.

10:33 a.m. *Commissioner Stebbins moved that the Commission approve the Massachusetts Responsible Gaming Framework, Version Two, as included in the packet. Commissioner Zuniga seconded. The motion passed 4 – 0.*

Two-Year Lottery Report.

Director Vander Linden presented the Two-Year Lottery Report with Mark W. Nichols, University of Nevada, Reno and University of Massachusetts Donahue

Institute, Economic and Public Policy Research Group (calling in remotely) and Dr. Rachel Volberg, SEIGMA Principal Investigator, UMass Amherst School of Public Health.

The purpose of the Two-Year Lottery Report study is to successfully meet the directive set forth in Chapter 23K, Section 1 of the 2011 Expanded Gaming Act that states, “Enhancing and supporting the performance of the state lottery and continuing the commonwealth’s dedication to local aid is imperative to the policy objectives of this chapter.”

The study measures how successful the Commission is at meeting this directive, as well as the fiscal impact of opening casinos on the Commonwealth’s lottery, revenue, and local aid.

Mr. Nichols remotely presented findings on impact that the lottery has had on Plainridge Park Casino (PPC), as well as on lottery sales statewide, in host and surrounding communities, and in communities within varying distances of the casino.

The study concluded, in part, that there was no clear evidence of a significant decline in lottery revenue attributed to Plainridge Park Casino. The team will continue to analyze PPC, as well as the impact of casinos in Springfield and Everett.

[11:13 a.m.](#) **Mass At-A-Glance Data Sharing Demonstration.**

Director Vander Linden presented the Mass At-A-Glance Data Sharing Demonstration with Valerie Evans, Biostatistician, SEIGMA Project, UMass Amherst and Dr. Volberg.

Mass At-A-Glance is an application developed by Zhenning Kang, MS Biostatistics UMass Amherst as an extension of the original mandate in section 97 of the 2011 Expanded Gaming Act. The purpose of this application is to share as much data as possible about the social and economic impacts of gambling in Massachusetts.

Licensing Division

See transcript pages 90 - 94

[11:42 p.m.](#) **Plainridge Park Casino Service Employee Exemptions**

Paul Connelly, Director of the Licensing Division presented proposed Plainridge Park Casino (PPC) Service Employee Exemptions with Kim Dixon, Vice President of Human Resources, PPC.

Per statute, the Commission has authority to exempt certain ‘Gaming Service Employee’ level job positions from the mandatory registration process. Following the Commission’s previous designation of a process and criteria for considering potential exemptions, Director Connelly brought forth additional positions for the Commission’s consideration.

Director Connelly recommended a total of 66 job positions be exempt from the registration process, under the criteria set by the Commission. Ms. Dixon added that with a less rigorous application process using LMS software in place, it will be easier for candidates to apply. It was discussed that this easier application process would provide more opportunity, thereby attracting more people, and getting candidates employed and working at a faster rate.

11:47 a.m. *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the Plainridge Park Casino Service Employee Exemptions as presented in the packet. Commissioner Stebbins seconded.*
The motion passed 4 – 0.

Legal Division

See transcript pages 94 - 111

11:48 a.m. **Amendments to 205 CMR 146.00: Gaming Equipment**
Catherine Blue, General Counsel requested approval of the amendments to 205 CMR 146.00: Gaming Equipment, and Small Business Impact Statement, to begin the formal promulgation process.

The amendments are a change in format to allow for a simpler updating process of rules of the games as needed.

11:49 a.m. *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement for the amendments to 205 CMR 146.00, the Gaming Equipment regulations as included in the packet. Commissioner Stebbins seconded.*
The Motion passed 4 – 0.

Commissioner Zuniga further moved that the Commission approve the version of the amendments to 205 CMR 146.00: Gaming Equipment regulation as included in the packet and authorize the staff to take all steps necessary to begin the regulatory promulgation process. Commissioner Stebbins seconded.
The Motion passed 4 – 0.

Amendments to 205 CMR 134.03: Gaming Service Employees

General Counsel Blue requested approval of the amendments to 205 CMR 134.03: Gaming Service Employees, and Small Business Impact Statement, for approval to promulgate by emergency.

These amendments would allow the Division of Licensing to extend the temporary time period for existing licensee employees helping to train and offer support in the pre and post-opening phase of a gaming establishment without those individuals having to become licensed or registered in Massachusetts, following consideration of the gaming licensee's written explanation of need, continuing training plan, and expected duration.

[12:00 p.m.](#) The Commission expressed concern that there was no prescribed end date to the extension of this temporary period, as there are in other provisions. An allowed duration not to exceed six months was decided upon by the Commission. The Investigations and Enforcement Bureau would re-draft the regulation to include a time period not to exceed six months for temporary training staff.

[12:03 p.m.](#) *Commissioner Zuniga moved that the Commission approve the Small Business Impact Statement for 205 CMR 134.03: Gaming Service Employees, by emergency, as included in the packet. Commissioner Stebbins seconded. The Motion passed 4 – 0.*

Commissioner Zuniga further moved that the Commission approve the version of amendments to 205 CMR 134.03: Gaming Service Employees, by emergency, that would include a sunset provision of six months from the date of the operation certificate as discussed. Commissioner Stebbins seconded. The Motion passed 4 – 0.

Racing Division

See transcript pages 111 - 117

[12:04 p.m.](#) **Jockey Guild Payments**

Dr. Alex Lightbown, Director and Chief Veterinarian presented an update regarding the annual payments that are required by statute 128(a), section 5(h)(4). This statute mandates that \$65,000 annually is paid to an organization that is determined to represent the majority of jockeys.

As the days of racing at Suffolk Racetrack have decreased, some of the Jockey Guild's original eligibility requirements have changed. The Jockey's Guild requested approval for changes to the Retired Jockeys eligibility qualifications, to reflect the current racing environment in Massachusetts. The statute mandates that the Commission approve change in language for disbursements to the Jockey Guild. Dr. Lightbown, along with General Counsel Blue, approved these changes as they did similarly in 2017 for the Active Rider qualifications changes.

Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development

See transcript pages 117 - 144

[1:00 p.m.](#) **Expanding Economic Access Grants**

Jill Griffin, Director of Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development presented the Expanding Economic Access Grants with the following individuals:

Lisa Wong, Deputy Director and Ivy Mah, Employment Center Coordinator of the Asian American Civic Association
Gladys Vega, Executive Director of Chelsea Collaborative

The Commission sought proposals in March to aide in advancement of economic development within the state's emerging casino industry with a goal of maximizing equity and inclusion for licensee employees and vendors. The grant awardees were selected based on their ability to implement programs in conjunction with the initiatives of the Workforce, Supplier and Diversity Development. These initiatives are to promote awareness of job opportunities, assist with interview and skill preparation for job candidates, remove road blocks for candidates with employment challenges, increase jobs for minorities, women and veterans, and create contracting opportunities for vendors with licensees.

Grants were awarded to:
Asian American Civic Association (AACA)
BEST Hospitality Training (BEST)
Chelsea Collaborative and La Comunidad
Hispanic American Institute (HAI)
Hampden County Sheriff Department
Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QV CDC)

Administrative Update (con't)

See transcript pages 144 - 146

[1:29 p.m.](#) Executive Director Ed Bedrosian added that there was an unanticipated item. The senate presented their budget and scheduled their process to commence before the next Commission Meeting was scheduled.

Director Bedrosian suggested that Chairman Crosby communicate with the legislature, as designated, regarding a number of items in the Senate Ways and Means budget about horseracing within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioners' Updates

See transcript pages 146 - 153

[1:31 p.m.](#) Commissioner Stebbins attended the first of many mass hiring events hosted by MGM Springfield. The event was successful, and took candidates through the application process and ended with a celebration for the candidates who were given a job offer. 40% of these applicants were Springfield residents. MGM Springfield will host another mass hiring event in July.

Commissioner Stebbins also attended and Access and Opportunity Committee meeting in Springfield, as construction is coming to an end in Springfield. Commissioner Stebbins noted that there were over 400 apprentices working on the MGM project.

Commissioner Zuniga met with Director Vander Linden with the delegation from Japan who are now interested in coming to see Massachusetts and are also interested in the Problem Gambling Counsel and PlayMyWay, as they are equivalent to our Council on Problem Gambling in Japan.

1:39 p.m. *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stebbins. Commissioner Zuniga seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated May 10, 2018
2. Commission Meeting Minutes Draft dated April 26, 2018
3. Responsible Gaming Framework Memo, dated May 10, 2018
4. MGC Responsible Gaming Framework PowerPoint Presentation
5. MA Lottery Revenue and PPC Two-Year Analysis PowerPoint Presentation
6. Lottery Analysis Plainridge PowerPoint Presentation dated May 10, 2018
7. Mass At-A-Glance PowerPoint Presentation dated May 10, 2018
8. Gaming Service Employee Exemptions Memo dated May 8, 2018
9. 205 CMR 146.00 Small Business Impact Statement
10. 205 CMR 146.00 Draft Regulation
11. 205 CMR 134.03 Small Business Impact Statement
12. 205 CMR 134.03 Draft Regulation
13. Jockey Eligibility Qualifications Massachusetts – Active
14. Jockey Eligibility Qualifications Massachusetts – Retired
15. Jockey Guild 128A
16. Expanding Access Grant MGC Memo dated May 10, 2018

/s/ Catherine Blue
Assistant Secretary