



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: July 26, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.

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

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

Participated Chairman Steve Crosby
by Phone: Commissioner Gayle Cameron

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

Call to Order

See transcript pages 2 - 3

[10:00 a.m.](#) Chairman Crosby and Commissioner Cameron participated in the meeting by phone because their physical attendance would be unreasonably difficult due to geographic distance. Commissioner Zuniga asked Chairman Crosby if he could hear Commissioner Zuniga and Chairman Crosby indicated that he could. Commissioner Zuniga asked Commissioner Cameron if she could hear Commissioner Zuniga and she indicated that she could. Commissioner Zuniga stated that he could hear both Chairman Crosby and Commissioner Cameron. Commissioner Zuniga stated that since two commissioners were participating telephonically, all votes would be taken by roll call. Commissioner Zuniga also stated that there are no minutes for approval at today's meeting.

Administrative Update

See transcript pages 3 - 33

General Update

[10:02 a.m.](#) Executive Director Bedrosian stated that the only update today is the MGM update.

MGM – Opening Update.

Executive Director Bedrosian stated that staff is working diligently on the matters required for the MGM opening. He anticipates that at the next Commission meeting the Commission will be asked to delegate to Commissioner Stebbins the authority to issue a conditional certificate of operations after observing the test and evaluation period. Staff will be reporting on compliance with all of the license conditions at that meeting as well. The next Commission meeting will be on August 2, in Springfield, starting around noon.

MG&E Request for Reconsideration – Region C

[10:05 a.m.](#)

Chairman Crosby asked the Commission to recognize the representative from Senator Brady's office who is attending the Commission meeting today. Executive Director Bedrosian stated that the Commission received a letter from the attorneys for MG&E and that he had requested staff to review the letter and prepare a memorandum. General Counsel Blue gave an overview of the memorandum prepared by staff.

Commissioner O'Brien recommended that the Commission move this matter to a meeting in September so that the Commission could more fully discuss a response to the letter. Commissioner Stebbins stated that the Commission takes the status of Region C seriously and also suggested that the Commission move this to the fall for further discussion. He stated that he has some areas of concern and would be willing to take up the discussion about Region C at a later date. Chairman Crosby suggested that the issues could be discussed at this meeting. Commission Cameron stated that she found the staff memorandum to be helpful. Many of the circumstances that led to the Commission's decision not to award a license in Region C haven't changed. Further analysis of current conditions in Region C would be helpful.

Executive Director Bedrosian suggested that the Commission could hold a public hearing in the fall and/or ask for public comment. Commissioner Stebbins stated that this issue really consists of two questions: how does the Commission respond to MG&E's letter and how does the Commission consider questions about reopening Region C. Questions regarding Region C would merit a public hearing. Commissioner O'Brien agreed with Commissioner Stebbins' suggested approach.

Chairman Crosby asked if there was a way to start some of the analysis now to be ready for the discussion on the matter in the fall. For example, Commissioner Zuniga could start looking at the scope of the review and the Commission could ask for feedback from interested parties. Chairman Crosby also raised the idea that the Commission could ask for expressions of interest in Region C. Chairman Crosby further stated that there is a misperception that the only issue involved in the decision as to whether or not to grant a license in Region C was the impact of a tribal casino in Region C. While that issue was mentioned in the Commission's decision to deny the

award of a license, the Commission's decision showed that the Commission's concerns were much broader than that.

Commissioner Cameron asked a question regarding process. Is it the right time to move this forward or is there a consensus to move this forward in steps, for example, by requesting public comment first? She stated that she is concerned about the timing. Staff has a lot to do between now and September and that any work on this matter should perhaps be put off until after the opening of MGM. Commissioner Crosby stated that if staff doesn't have the capacity to work on this now, that is a good reason to wait. Commissioner O'Brien stated that the Commission should respond to the letter first and then review the Region C market conditions. Commissioner Zuniga concurred with Commissioner O'Brien's assessment.

To summarize, Executive Director Bedrosian stated that over the next thirty to forty-five days he will ask staff to focus on a response to the MG&E letter and then prepare topics that will follow in the broader discussion regarding Region C.

Executive Director Bedrosian asked the Commission if they would take item #4, Supplier, Diversity and Workforce Development before Item #3, Research and Problem Gaming. He also requested that if either of the Commissioners participating by phone leaves the meeting to please let us know.

Supplier, Diversity and Workforce Development

See transcript pages 33 - 42

[10:34 a.m.](#) Ombudsman John Ziemba and Jill Griffin, Director, Supplier, Diversity and Workforce Development presented on the request from the Boston PIC to redesignate the use of certain of the funds awarded to it as part of its community mitigation grant award approved by the Commission. The Boston PIC requested that it be allowed to use some of the funds it requested for staffing instead of data management. While the amount involved would not fully fund a staff person, the Boston PIC has talked to other groups about possibly obtaining matching funds to fund a staff person.

Director Griffin stated that staff was encouraged to see collaboration between groups on the workforce development grants.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stebbins that the Commission approve the use of \$26,765 of its grant by the Boston PIC for staffing or a consultant position. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Brien. The Motion passed 5-0 by roll call vote Chairman Crosby -aye; Commissioner Stebbins-aye; Commissioner Zuniga-aye; Commissioner O'Brien-aye, and Commissioner Cameron-aye.

Research and Problem Gaming

See transcript pages 42 - 104

[10:45 a.m.](#) Commissioner Crosby left the meeting and ended his telephonic participation at 10:46 a.m. He stated that he would follow the meeting on the live stream. Commissioner Cameron continued to participate telephonically.

Mark Vander Linden, Director of Research and Responsible Gaming introduced Dr. Heather Gray and Dr. Debi LaPlante from the Cambridge Health Alliance who were here to present the Game Sense Evaluation report. Mr. Vander Linden described the background for the evaluation process and stated that Game Sense is an example of an precautionary approach to problem gambling.

Dr. Gray and Dr. LaPlante presented the summary of the Game Sense Evaluation report which was included in the Commission packet. Dr. Gray explained the evaluation report methodology and some of the key findings such as the number and types of interactions between patrons and Game Sense Advisors; what patrons received from those interactions; whether patrons would go to a Game Sense Advisor if they felt they were losing control over their gambling; why patrons talked with Game Sense Advisors; what if any actions patrons took after talking with Game Sense Advisors; and how satisfied patrons were with their interactions with Game Sense Advisors.

Dr. Gray also presented on the survey done with Plainridge Park Casino employees. The survey examined their familiarity with the Game Sense program and with the Game Sense Advisors.

Dr. Gray presented on the overall conclusions reached by the evaluation, such as finding a high sense of satisfaction by the patrons with the Game Sense program and the reach of the Game Sense program. Dr. Gray also discussed the limitations of the evaluation, for example that not all patrons were surveyed and that causal relationships cannot be established. Dr. Gray went on to recommend that the Commission evaluate whether the Game Sense program fits with the statute and that the Commission develop new ways to engage patrons and casino employees with the Game Sense program. Dr. Gray stated that it is too early to determine if the Game Sense program increased knowledge regarding problem gaming.

Commissioner's Updates

See transcript pages 104 - 110

[11:54 a.m.](#) Commissioner Stebbins stated that the last AOC meeting with MGM Springfield will take place on October 9 in Springfield. After that meeting there will be a diversity celebration. Commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioner Stebbins also reported that the skills cabinet will make an investment in the culinary program at Bunker Hill Community College.

Commissioner Zuniga stated that he attended the National Conference on Problem Gambling conference. Massachusetts was recognized at the conference as being progressive on addressing problem gambling. Speakers at the conference suggested that if states expand into sports betting they should look at the Massachusetts programs on research and problem gambling. Commissioner Zuniga also mentioned that representatives from Japan who also attended the conference came to Massachusetts to view Game Sense and Play My Way. Representatives from Saipan also expressed interest in visiting Massachusetts for the same reasons. Finally, Commissioner Zuniga stated that MGM received the corporate responsibility award at the conference.

2:00 p.m. *Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Stebbins. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion. The Motion passed 4-0 by roll call vote Chairman Crosby having earlier left the meeting: Commissioner Stebbins-aye; Commissioner Zuniga-aye; Commissioner O'Brien-aye, and Commissioner Cameron-aye.*

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. Notice of Meeting and Agenda, dated July 24, 2018
2. June 6, 2018 letter from Goodwin Proctor Regarding MG&E LLC's Application for Region C
3. June 10, 2018 letter from Pastor Richard Reid Regarding MG&E LLC's Application for Region C
4. June 28, 2018 letter from Senator Michael Brady Regarding MG&E LLC's Application for Region C
5. Presentation-Cambridge Health Alliance: Comprehensive Evaluation of the Game Sense Program at Plainridge Park Casino 2015-2018
6. Report- Cambridge Health Alliance: Comprehensive Evaluation of the Game Sense Program at Plainridge Park Casino 2015-2018

/s/ Catherine Blue
Assistant Secretary