



CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

April 24, 2018 10:30 a.m.

Mass. Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 13th Floor

Boston, MA

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Steven Hoffman
Commissioner Kay Doyle
Commissioner Jen Flanagan (Remote Participation)
Commissioner Britte McBride
Commissioner Shaleen Title

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. [Presentation](#)
2. [RMD Approvals](#)
3. [EEA Approvals](#)
4. [RMD Rejection](#)

Chairman Hoffman called the Cannabis Control Commission meeting to order at 10:30am on April, 24, 2018. The Chairman noted that Commissioner Flanagan will be participating remotely. The Chairman stated this meeting was being recorded. The Chairman reviewed the meeting's agenda.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the Feb 28, 2018 meeting minutes, asked if there are any questions or comments. Commissioner Title commented that she suggested a worker's protection working committee and send it to the advisory board. Executive Director Shawn Collins stated that the suggestion will be forwarded to the advisory board. Chairman Hoffman asked if he can have a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title. The Chairman suggested since one member of the Commission is participating remotely, a voice vote is necessary for all votes.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The meeting minutes are unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Hoffman noted that a new member has joined the staff. Executive Director Shawn Collins introduced Erika White, Chief People Officer, and discusses her professional background. Mr. Collins sought the Commission's approval for a job description for Manager of Infrastructure and Applications. The position is in the budget. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Next, Mr. Collins provided an update on priority certification. Chairman Hoffman thanked the staff for all their hard work. Commissioner Title asked why some were withdrawn. Mr. Collins believed that people were walking through the various steps.

Commissioner McBride asked for an example of why we are reopening applications. Mr. Collins spoke about providing additional documentation.

Chairman Hoffman asked for an update for licensing applications. Mr. Collins spoke about the applications. Chairman Hoffman asked about the software performance. Mr. Collins said it was performing as expected.

Mr. Collins discussed the investigative services RFP, engaging with Creative Services Inc for a contract to conduct background checks. Chairman Hoffman asked about the options of the contract. Commissioner Title asked about the costs of services, fees per applicant. Commissioner Title asked why each of the searches are necessary. Mr. Collins discussed background check process and locking the price in now. Commissioner Title stated that if these extra searches are included, they should be itemized to make it clear they are optional and not part of a required package.

General Counsel Christine Baily discussed adding additional language to the background check for clarification. Commissioner Title thought that would be useful in addition to the other clarifications she recommended.

Commissioner McBride asked Commissioner Title which items in the contract are a concern. Commissioner Title cited the social media search. Chairman Hoffman asked if striking the language would deal with the concerns. Commissioner Title said she was not clear on other items as well. Mr. Collins suggested breaking out each topic by price. Commissioner McBride asked for definitions. Chairman Hoffman noted that he would prefer to approve this sooner but would wait to next week if necessary.

Commissioner McBride asked if we could work on an addendum to the contract. General Counsel Christine Baily stated she could bring an addendum before the Commission next week. Ms. Baily worked alongside our chief of investigations, Yaw Gyebi, in determining these terms. Chairman Hoffman asked when we need to have these investigative services performed. Mr. Collins noted it's urgent but does not want to rush it.

Commissioner Title wanted to know if Mr. Collins wanted to wait till next week. Mr. Collins noted that the vendor should be at the table as well. Chairman Hoffman suggested having a special meeting devoted to this topic on Friday. Commissioner McBride stated she would be open to hearing from the vendor, as well as Yaw Gyebi. Chairman Hoffman stated he will set up a meeting on Friday.

Next, Chairman Hoffman turned to priority applications reviewed by staff. Mr. Collins spoke on the different batches. First, is thirty RMD priority applications. Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Next, Mr. Collins sought approval for an application that had a conflict with Commissioner Flanagan. Commissioner Flanagan said she would comfortable abstaining. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Abstain

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is approved by the Commission: 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

Next, Mr. Collins turned to sixteen Economic Empowerment Applications who have been recommended for staff approval. Commissioner McBride made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Next, Mr. Collins discussed one RMD application recommended for rejection. Staff was unable to verify or confirm with the Dept. of Public Health. Commissioner McBride asked if there has been any contact with the applicant, wondering if there is a confusion issue here. Mr. Collins stated that staff has not engaged with the applicant, but a business and media search was conducted. The address given was also likely a residential address. There was no known entity by that name registered with the Dept. of Public Health. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to reject, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Hoffman turned to expiration of priority certifications. Mr. Collins discussed potential options regarding expirations of certification. Commissioner Doyle stated last week we discussed no expiration date certain on the two different categories but wanted to put out some expiration criteria and to work with the General Counsel on language. The concept is the priority RMDs be able to use their priority certification, they would still have to have a PCR or FCR in good standing, when they apply. With priority EEAs, the persons who form the basis of eligibility for economic empowerment applicants still need to be involved in those roles that formed the basis of their eligibility. There will be no expiration date, although there may be another reason that causes expiration other than time. Commissioner McBride agreed with Commissioner Doyle. Commissioner Title thanked Commissioner Doyle and asked a follow up confirming that ownership percentage of EE applicants would still need to meet the requirements of eligibility for EE at the time of application, even if ownership changed. Chairman Hoffman asked for a vote on the proposed language for the General Counsel to develop. Commissioner McBride made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Next, Chairman Hoffman discussed the definition of outdoor cultivation, which was raised and tabled next week. None of the Commissioners received public comments. Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title.

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Aye

The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

With no further business, the Chairman noted the next meetings will be on Friday April 27, 2018, and May 2, 2018, and adjourns the meeting at 11:25am.