Chairman Hoffman called the Cannabis Control Commission to order at 1:04pm on July 12, 2018. Chairman Hoffman reviewed the meeting agenda. First, there are three sets of minutes before the Commission. The Commission reviewed the minutes from June 21, 2018. Chairman Hoffman asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Flanagan. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. Next, the Commission reviewed the minutes from June 26, 2018. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission. Last, the Commission reviewed the minutes from July 2, 2018. Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Flanagan. The motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Next, Executive Director Shawn Collins gave his report. Mr. Collins introduced two new staff members. Mr. Collins introduced Jamie Blair, the manager of infrastructure and applications, and discussed his professional background. Mr. Collins then introduced Sherry Defoe, the licensing specialist, and discussed her professional background. Mr. Collins noted the HR generalist job posting was open until Friday.
Mr. Collins discussed licensing applications as of July 12, 2018 (slide 4). Mr. Collins discussed how many applicants have submitted all 4 packets (slide 5). Mr. Collins added another column from last week which showed the difference, breaking down by category, in the number of applications that have submitted all 4 packets. Mr. Collins then discussed the process in which an application is reviewed by the Commission (slide 6).

Chairman Hoffman thanked Mr. Collins for breaking down the numbers. Mr. Collins noted these numbers are fluid, as things change day to day. Lastly, Mr. Collins turned to the map showing a breakdown by county (slide 7).

Mr. Collins discussed the ongoing transition of the medical use of marijuana program from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Commission. The Legislature directed a transition of oversight of the medical program to Commission by the end of 2018, Mr. Collins explained that since he began there has been an ongoing dialogue with DPH regarding the transition. First, the Commission is trying to get an understanding of the operations and regulations of the medical program. Mr. Collins noted the Legislature mandated a report to be issued by July 15, 2018. Before the Commission today is a draft report, written in a collaborative effort with DPH.

The draft report provides a high-level overview. The report addresses operational areas and looks at the medical program to see how to merge it with the adult use program. This includes licensing, personnel, financing, legal, communications and physical office space. Mr. Collins was confident the transition would occur by end of calendar year. From a technology standpoint, several things need to happen, such as the transfer of phone numbers, email addresses and the patient portal. Other issues have been considered, such as the medical program being currently located at 99 Chauncy St in Boston, and the Commission is in process of identifying long-term headquarters, and how those things coincide is another element of logistics.

Chairman Hoffman asked when the Commission will have a date for when the transition will occur. Mr. Collins said it would be hard to say, many items require lead time, such as the adoption of regulations. The intention is to have the least disruption as possible to the medical program and that includes employee experience.

Chairman Hoffman asked for a motion to approve the draft report submitted by Mr. Collins. Commissioner Flanagan made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Chairman Hoffman thanked all involved and DPH for being as collaborative as they are. The next item is the Request for Response for business intelligence and open data technology. Mr. Collins said this was in line with Director of Research Dr. Johnson’s research agenda, to build a data warehouse and open data sources.

Commissioner Doyle thanked Mr. Collins and the General Counsel for their work. Commissioner Doyle wanted to clarify that this open data platform was limited to the adult use program, as there are privacy concerns with the medical program. Mr. Collins said that there will be information that the Commission will not release, such as the background check information. Commissioner Doyle asked if the intent is to have the medical program be a part of
the open data. Mr. Collins said elements of it yes, such as licenses, and license information, but not patient information.

Commissioner McBride thanked the staff for putting this together. Commissioner McBride said the Commission should place a premium on the data being accessible to those with hearing or visual impairments. Mr. Collins said where possible he will make that explicit. With the caveat of Commissioner Doyle and the request of Commissioner McBride, Chairman Hoffman asked for a motion to approve the RFR. Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McBride. The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Collins said our intention is to publish this as soon as possible, and late August is most likely when we will identify a vendor, to give us enough time to review.

Commissioner Title asked that for the agenda of the next meeting, to have a discussion on the economic empowerment applications. Chairman Hoffman agreed to place it on the agenda.

Next, Chairman Hoffman turned to the staff recommendation for the issuance of a provisional license to Cultivate Holdings LLC (#MCN281266). Mr. Collins reviewed the application details contained in the executive summary. Mr. Collins said the recommendation for licensure will be subject to the following conditions: all required individuals be finger printed, applicant will document compliance with Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations, be subject to inspection and audit for compliance with CCC regulations, be subject to inspection and audit for compliance with state and local codes, cooperate with Commission investigators and employees, pay license fee, demonstrate compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements for final licensure. Mr. Collins noted the Commission certifies the due diligence review of the applicant was performed, and the applicant has demonstrated compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth, and suitability for licensure. Chairman Hoffman asked for a motion to approve the staff’s recommendation for the issuance of a provisional license. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McBride. The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission.

With no unexpected business before the Commission, Chairman Hoffman announced the next meeting is July 26, 2018 at 1pm, location to be confirmed but likely at the Health Policy Commission. With no further business before the Commission, Chairman Hoffman asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Commissioner Flanagan, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The motion is unanimously approved by the Commission. The Commission is adjourned as of 1:40pm.