



CANNABIS CONTROL COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2018 11:30 a.m.

Health Policy Commission

50 Milk Street, 8th Floor

Boston, MA

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Steven Hoffman

Commissioner Kay Doyle

Commissioner Jen Flanagan

Commissioner Britte McBride

Commissioner Shaleen Title

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. [Presentation](#)
2. [Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2018](#)
3. [Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2018](#)
4. [Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2018](#)

Chairman Hoffman called the Cannabis Control Commission meeting to order at 11:30am on April 18, 2018 and noted this meeting is being recorded.

Chairman Hoffman noted that two new members have joined the staff. Executive Director Shawn Collins introduced Julie Johnson, Director of Research, and discussed her professional background. Next, Director Collins introduced Andrew Carter, Legal Assistant, and discussed his professional background.

Chairman Hoffman noted that the window for priority applications has closed on April 15, 2018. On April 17, 2018, applications for license window has opened for those who received certification. Chairman Hoffman discussed these milestones, and the upcoming batch of priority certification and the process. He noted that Commissioner Title will recuse herself from 4 applications because of previous relationships.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the Feb 27, 2018 meeting minutes, asked if there are any questions or comments. Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The meeting minutes are unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the Feb 28, 2018, asked if the Commission would like to defer the approval of these minutes until next week. Commissioner Title would like to defer to next week, the Chairman agrees.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the April 3, 2018 meeting minutes, asked if there are any questions or comments. Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Title. The meeting minutes are unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the April 10, 2018 meeting minutes, asked if there are any questions or comments. Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The meeting minutes are unanimously approved by the Commission.

Chairman Hoffman asked the Executive Director for an update in the priority certification process. Mr. Collins referred to a slide entitled "Priority Applications April 18th, 2018" and describes the applications thus far regarding submitted, incomplete, and withdrawn applications. Mr. Collins discussed the reopen application process being conducted by the staff. Mr. Collins noted that there has been great interest in the application process thus far. The Commission will have another batch of certification applicants for approval, slated for next week.

The Executive Director asked the Commission if they have any questions for him. Chairman Hoffman acknowledged the hard work of the team, as there are many applications. Commissioner Title stated that her understanding is that anyone can go into the application but only those with priority certification can hit submit, is this correct? Mr. Collins confirmed this is correct. Yesterday at noon, the Commission launched all application types, anyone at this point can begin, not all would be able to submit the application, either you received certification of Commission approval, or the next phase is May 1st and June 1st. The certification process has been a seamless rollout from a technology and process standpoint.

Commissioner Title recapped that anyone can start working on an application, and the next steps for the Commission is to complete review of priority certification and then move on to reviewing applications. The earliest the Commission can issue a license under state law is June 1st.

Chairman Hoffman asked Director Collins to discuss the ability to collect payment. Mr. Collins explained the two ways applicants can pay the Commission license or application fee. The application itself has a payment page. The financial data is being sent to the Comptroller's office. There is also a lockbox with Bank of America. Mr. Collins expressed thanks to the Comptroller and Treasurer's office for their work.

Chairman Hoffman turned to the recommendations from the staff for approval of priority certification. Mr. Collins had a question for the Commission regarding the length of time priority certification would be valid. This issue has come up. Chairman Hoffman asked the Commission for comment. Commissioner Title does not believe there should be an expiration date for priority certification. She noted how difficult it can be to get up and running, find funding, and get local approval. Commissioner McBride agrees with Commissioner Title and allowing individuals to take advantage of that certification. Commissioner Doyle recommends tabling this issue for another meeting, because it is a new issue. Chairman Hoffman added it to the agenda for next week.

Chairman Hoffman asked about the sequence of categories that will be approved on May 1st and June 1st. Mr. Collins discussed having transportation licenses available May 1st, instead of June 1st. Smaller entities might not have the bandwidth for transportation, give transportation licensees some lead time. Chairman Hoffman asked if the proposal is for distribution licenses to be available May 1st. Mr. Collins confirmed that is correct. Commissioner Doyle clarified that the Commission is discussing transporter licenses. Chairman Hoffman confirmed that is correct and asked for comments. Chairman Hoffman checks with General Counsel, who confirmed Commission should vote on the issue. Mr. Collins stated the proposal is to open licenses for transportation related licenses, for May 1st as opposed to June 1st. Commissioner Title made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. The Commission unanimously approved the proposal.

Chairman Hoffman discussed two batches for priority certification applications that the staff is recommending for approval. Batch 1 includes both economic empowerment and dispensary applicants. Batch 2 has both as well and Commissioner Title will recuse herself for 4 applications.

Mr. Collins noted this is similar to last week's discussion. There is a total of 35 or so applicant, which are a mix of RMD and economic employment applications. The RMD applications were reviewed in partnership with the Dept. of Public Health. Mr. Collins discussed the process in which staff reviewed the applications.

Chairman Hoffman asked the Commission for comments and questions. Commissioner McBride asked the thinking behind why names are being withheld during the application process and given numbers. Mr. Collins explained that as a matter of courtesy, the Commission would like to give the applicants notice that they have been approved for certification before they learn about it from Twitter or the media. This information will be posted to the Commission's website in a timely a manner as possible. Commissioner McBride asked if the Commission will have a similar process with actual licenses? Mr. Collins expects the process will be different for license applications because there will not be as sizable batches to be approved. There is a lengthy background check and review process from the staff perspective. Commissioner McBride thanked the staff for reviewing the certification applications.

Mr. Collins noted all license types rolled out yesterday, and it went reasonably well. JD software has been a valuable partner and resource. The staff has done a lot of work learning this application process and developing good processes.

Chairman Hoffman asked for questions or comments for Batch 1. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McBride. The Commission unanimously approved Batch 1 for priority certification. Chairman Hoffman asked for questions or comments for Batch 2. Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Doyle. Chairman Hoffman called for a voice vote:

Commissioner Doyle- Aye

Chairman Hoffman- Aye

Commissioner McBride- Aye

Commissioner Flanagan- Aye

Commissioner Title- Abstain

The motion was approved by a vote 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

Mr. Collins says he hoped to be back next week with another batch. Some will be reopened and seeking more information. Others will be ready for approval.

Chairman Hoffman discussed the clarification of the regulations regarding indoor vs outdoor cultivation. Commissioner Doyle worked with Commissioner Title on the language. The Commissioners looked at other states to see what they did and reviewed input from agricultural stakeholders. The Commissioners settled on language from the state of California. Outdoor cultivation means the cultivation of mature cannabis, without the use of artificial lighting in the canopy area at any point in time. Artificial lighting is permissible only to maintain immature plants. Commissioner McBride trusts that Commissioner Doyle and Commissioner Title reviewed this, and it made sense to move forward. Commissioner Flanagan agrees with Commissioner McBride. Commissioner Title wants to wait one week, so that people can submit comments. Chairman Hoffman puts it on the agenda for next week.

Chairman Hoffman noted the next meeting of the Commission will be on April 24, 2018 at 10:30am at the Gaming Commission. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03pm.