

OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
11:00 A.M. – March 7, 2012
RIFFE CENTER, 77 SOUTH HIGH STREET
31ST FLOOR, SOUTH B AND C
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215

The regular meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission was called to order at 11:05 A.M. by Chair JoAnn Davidson. Commissioners McKinley Brown, Martin Hoke, Ranjan Manoranjan, Peter Silverman, John Steinhauer, and June Taylor were also in attendance. The minutes of the February 15, 2012 meeting were approved following a motion by Commissioner Steinhauer and seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan.

Richard St.Jean, General Manager of Hollywood Casino Toledo, gave a progress report. The casino is anticipating a certificate of occupancy on March 15, 2012, and has requested test opening dates on May 24 and May 25, and a grand opening on May 29.

Executive Director Matt Schuler provided an overview of Commission activity and recognized members of OCCC staff to provide more detailed reviews.

Chris Storcella, Licensing & Investigations, reported that over 1000 gaming employee applications have been processed at the Cleveland and Toledo casinos in the last two weeks with additional application days pending at each facility. Anthony Forchione, Manager of Investigations, was introduced to the Commission.

Patrick Martin, Regulatory Compliance, reported that a Slot Manager, Chris Fleenor, has been hired and that compliance review for all aspects of gaming is ongoing. Slot training for gaming agents will begin soon and compliance review will be ongoing.

Karen Huey reviewed action in the Enforcement division noting the hiring of Geoff Keener, Intelligence Analyst and the March 12 commencement of training for the gaming agents assigned to Cleveland and Toledo.

Laura Clemens gave an update on problem gambling activities, reporting that March 5-10 is Problem Gaming Awareness Week. The OCCC now has radio advertising promoting problem gambling resources and is working with the Ohio Lottery to coordinate other radio and television campaigns later this year. The OCCC web site has specific problem gambling information and links to additional resources. Ms. Clemens also noted that action on H.B. 386, which contains changes in casino gaming law, is likely before the end of May.

John Barron explained the required creation of a formal process for conducting Chapter 119 Administrative Procedure Hearings. OCCC has prepared an Administrative Hearing Manual and Procedure, which was reviewed for the Commission by Lisa Siefker, OCCC Staff. Resolution 2012-09 was presented to the Commission to delegate to the Executive Director, the authority to make initial licensing decisions and to initiate the administrative hearing process. At the conclusion of a hearing, the report and recommendation of the hearing examiner will be brought before the Commission for approval, modification, or disapproval. Commissioner Manoranjan made a motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the OCCC and the Office of the Attorney General's BCI was reviewed for the Commission by OCCC staff.

John Oberle, representing Penn National Gaming, presented additional documentation as required by Commission Resolution 2012-12, as to the irrevocable proxy created in the restructuring of Fortress Investment Group. Acceptance of the documentation required no further action by the Commission. Executive Director Schuler clarified for the Commission that Daniel Mudd, the “outside directors” of Fortress Investment Group, Inc., Nomura Investment Managers, U.S.A. Inc., and the natural persons associated with the latter two entities have been formally removed from the Required Filers “Exhibit A” for Penn, as was required by the adoption of Resolution 2012-12.

Administrative Rule 3772-20-03 “Training”, was offered in a revised form to specifically require casino security departments to train personnel in the awareness and detection of human trafficking. Commissioner Steinhauer moved adoption of the revised rule, Commissioner Silverman seconded, and the revised filing was approved. The revision does not change the filing status of the rule.

John Oberle, representing Penn National, requested the Commission grant a waiver for Penn to provide their own certification of investors at or below 1% of ownership. Because the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) was included on the list of Penn Institutional Investors of 1% or less, Commission Steinhauer asked if it was appropriate that the Commission members be voting on this waiver. Staff of the Attorney General’s office said the OPERS ownership is in line with the exclusion for passive investment and action by the Commission would not be a problem. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt Commission Resolution 2012-08, granting this waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and adopted.

Due to the addition of a new Key Employee to the vendor license application for TCS Huxley, the Commission was asked to increase the fee to Spectrum to cover the cost of the investigation. Commissioner Manoranjan moved to make the increase, Commissioner Taylor seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

To facilitate review of the required third party engineering or accounting firm review of the casino operators, a motion was offered by Commissioner Silverman to waive the thirty-day layover requirement for these reports. The action will allow review of both reports at the same meeting of the Commission. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion and it was approved.

To demonstrate compliance with Ohio’s public records law, the OCCC is required to have a written public records policy. John Barron, OCCC staff, presented a policy to the Commission which was adopted following a motion by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Chair Davidson reminded the Commission members that operator, vendor, and gaming employee licenses will soon be before the Commission and extra meetings may need to be scheduled.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Signed: Katherine L. Kelly
Commission Clerk
Approved March 21, 2012

