

OHIO CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
10:00 A.M. – June 16, 2021
Meeting Held Virtually – Microsoft Teams Live Event

The regular meeting of the Ohio Casino Control Commission (Commission) was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chair June Taylor. Vice-Chair Jo Ann Davidson and Commissioners Will Lucas, Ranjan Manoranjan, Lynn Slaby, and John Steinhauer were also in attendance. Commissioner McKinley Brown had an excused absence. The minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting were approved following a motion by Commissioner Slaby and seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson.

Executive Director Matthew Schuler began his report with a budget overview by Rick Anthony, Deputy Executive Director and Director of Operations, for the month of May, the eleventh month of the fiscal year. An overview of the entire fiscal year will be presented at next month's meeting. Mr. Anthony reported that estimates for both revenue and expenses are on track. The next tax distribution is anticipated in July, which is expected to be strong due to increased casino patronage in April and May. Casino-gaming-employee and key-employee fees are trending on track with budget estimates, due to casinos ramping up hiring from the pandemic curfew and returning to business as usual. A CARES reimbursement was received in May for equipment needed for staff while working from home during the pandemic. Mr. Anthony explained this should be the last CARES reimbursement that the Commission receives.

On the expense side, wages and benefits were a little below estimates due to some vacancies. Purchased personal services were below estimates, mainly due to administrative hearings not being held in recent months due to the pandemic. However, Mr. Anthony noted that hearings for casino gaming and skill gaming will resume in July and a rise in those expenses are expected going forward. Equipment costs were above estimates due to the need to purchase new PCs for staff working from home. These expenses were offset by the CARES reimbursement received for the purchase of this equipment. The Enforcement Fund expenses were below estimates due to utilizing in-house training opportunities and training being postponed due to the pandemic. Mr. Anthony noted that with the lift of pandemic restrictions, the Commission is now in the process of rescheduling trainings that were postponed so a rise in those expenses is anticipated in the coming months.

Next, Mr. Schuler provided an update on Problem Gambling. In August 2020, the Commission and its partners in Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) launched the warm transfer program, which allowed individuals calling the 24/7 helpline outside of normal business hours or on weekends to be connected with trained clinicians. The program started with evening and weekend hours, with the thought that individuals would be able to connect directly with counselors or treatment professionals on their own during daytime hours. The treatment professionals participating in the warm transfer program must be qualified in the treatment of gambling disorders and are grouped regionally so that they are knowledgeable about the services that are available in the caller's area. This program has shown so much

success that ORG has decided to expand the service to cover daytime hours as well and will now be a 24/7 service. ORG was able to make this possible by entering into agreements with many partnering agencies that allow their clinicians to be on call during business hours. Mr. Schuler reported that this program has been receiving a lot of interest across the nation. The warm transfer program was presented at a recent National Counsel and Problem Gambling Affiliates Committee, and as a result, many other state affiliates are interested in incorporating this type of service in their own jurisdictions.

Mr. Schuler ended his report with an overview and wrap-up of changes that have happened since the pandemic. On June 17, 2020, through Resolution 2020-24, the Executive Director was delegated authority to temporarily consider waivers and variances regarding casino-gaming provisions of Ohio Adm.Code Agency 3772 and internal-control amendments that were critical to protecting the health, safety, and wellbeing of the public during the period of emergency declared in Executive Order 2020-01D related to preventing the spread of COVID-19. A number of targeted waivers were granted during this period, which included extensions for internal and external audit deadlines and reports, extending expiration deadlines for patron slot vouchers, and changing game rules to allow casinos to return wagers to players if no outcome was made prior to closing for the curfew. Staffing level changes were also granted to casinos during closure and pandemic curfew periods for security, surveillance, cage, count room, and table game areas, due to closure times or social distancing. With the expiration of applicable health orders governing the casino industry on June 2, 2021, the Commission sent notices to Ohio casinos notifying them that all previously approved COVID-19 temporary waivers, variances, and internal controls would be rescinded and expire on June 16, 2021. Mr. Schuler noted that all casinos have instituted all regularly required internal controls and procedures without incident.

Craig Donahue, Director of Regulatory Compliance, presented for consideration the approval of an amended casino-gaming-area designation for Hollywood Casino Toledo (HCT), to adjust its designated gaming area. HCT requested to change the currently designated gaming area to incorporate an expansion to its outdoor gaming space. Chair Taylor made a motion to approve the adjustment to the HCT's existing casino-gaming-area designation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Steinhauer and approved.

Anna Marin Russell, Director of Licensing and Investigations and Senior Legal Counsel, presented for consideration the initial gaming-related vendor license application for House Advantage, LLC, as well as the associated initial key-employee license applications for Jon Wolfe, Gary Kapral, and Nate Nelson.

The Commissioners had questions that were confidential in nature relating to financial and trade-secret information. Due to the confidential nature of the materials being discussed, Chair Taylor made the following motion: "Discussion of House Advantage, LLC's Initial Gaming-Related Vendor License Application includes matters that are required to be kept confidential by state law. In particular, this discussion requires disclosure of financial and trade-secret information that is deemed confidential under R.C. 3772.16(A)(9) and (12), respectively. Accordingly, I move to go into executive session pursuant

to R.C. 121.22(G)(5).” The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson and adopted by a roll call vote of 6-0.

The Commission moved into Executive Session at 10:24 a.m. The regular meeting of the Commission went back on the record at 11:24 a.m. with Chair Taylor recognizing Ms. Russell.

Ms. Russell then reviewed the Division of Licensing & Investigation’s “Investigative Report on the Application of House Advantage LLC for an Initial Gaming-Related Vendor License.” In so doing, Ms. Russell noted that the Division of Licensing & Investigations completed thorough suitability investigations of the company and its three associated key employees, none of which uncovered any material derogatory information. As a result, Ms. Russell recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2021-20, granting the gaming-related vendor and key-employee licenses. Chair Taylor moved to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

Next, Ms. Russell presented for consideration the gaming-related vendor license application for Seminole Hard Rock Support Services, LLC (SHRSS) and the key-employee license application for Agostino Cipollini. The Division of Licensing & Investigations completed suitability investigations of SHRSS and Mr. Cipollini, which did not uncover any material derogatory information. Ms. Russell recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2021-21, granting the gaming-related vendor and key-employee licenses. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Manoranjan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas and approved.

Then, Ms. Russell presented for consideration nine key-employee license applications. The Licensing & Investigations Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2021-22, granting or renewing, as applicable, key-employee licenses for: Shawn Drummond, Hollywood Casino Toledo; Wade Howk, Hard Rock Casino Cincinnati; Jonathan Leemaster, Penn National Gaming, Inc.; Norihito Nakatani, Japan Cash Machine Co., Ltd.; Mitsuhiro Ueno, Japan Cash Machine Co., Ltd.; Jason Birney, Hollywood Casino Columbus; Briceson Kahler, JACK Cleveland Casino; Harper Ko, Penn National Gaming, Inc.; and Perry Montesi, JACK Cleveland Casino. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Steinhauer. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson and approved.

Andromeda Morrison, Director of Skill Games and Senior Legal Counsel, presented for consideration 44 skill-based amusement machine-related license applications. The Skill Games Division completed background investigations of the applicants, which did not uncover any material derogatory information, and recommended approval of proposed Resolution 2021-23, granting skill-based amusement machine-related licenses upon receipt of the required licensing fees. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Slaby. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lucas and approved.

Next, Ms. Morrison presented to the Commission for their consideration, the certification renewal of Gaming Laboratories International, LLC (GLI), as a skill games independent testing laboratory. Commission staff completed an investigation to assess GLI’s capability to provide information and

services to the Commission in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 3772-50. Commission staff concluded GLI met the requirements, conditions, and duties for certification and recommended approval of Commission Resolution 2021-24, renewing GLI's granting a three-year skill games independent testing laboratory certification to GLI for a period of three years. Commissioner Steinhauer made a motion to adopt Commission Resolution 2021-24, approving GLI's three-year skill games independent testing laboratory certification. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and approved.

Mr. Matthew Oyster, General Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer, presented to the Commission for consideration two casino gaming final orders:

A final order regarding Melissa Avery (case #2020-LIC-041). Chair Taylor moved to revoke the casino gaming employee license for Melissa Avery. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Steinhauer and approved.

A final order regarding Jimmy Ransbottom (case #2020-LIC-034). Chair Taylor moved to deny the casino gaming employee license renewal application for Jimmy Ransbottom. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Slaby and approved.

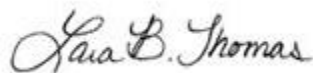
Ms. Morrison then presented for consideration two skill gaming final orders:

A final order regarding Par Excellence Management, LLC (case #2020-SLIC-126). Chair Taylor moved to approve and adopt the Report and Recommendation without modifications to deny the Skill-Based Amusement Machine Vendor License Application for Par Excellence Management, LLC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manoranjan and approved.

A final order regarding the denial of skill-based amusement machine license applications (case #2020-SLIC-109, -268 & -269, & 2021-SLIC-008 & -009). Chair Taylor moved to deny the skill-based amusement machine license applications for the cases listed in the final order. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Davidson and approved.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed,



Lara B. Thomas
Commission Secretary

Approved: July 21, 2021