

**MINUTES OF THE
CHARITABLE GAMING BOARD
MEETING
DISCOVERY ROOM
SCIENCE MUSEUM OF VIRGINIA
2500 W. BROAD STREET, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
September 14, 2004**

Call to Order

Ruth Modlin Ellett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She welcomed all in attendance. The following Members were present comprising a quorum.

Present: Emmitt H. Carlton, Wesley I. Crowder, Ruth M. Ellett, John C. Goolrick, Tony Landis, Richard I. Miller, and Michael Sheffield.

Absent: Donald R. Fields and Thomas Lehner

Director Clyde Cristman introduced two new Department staff members, Lisa Nichols and Matthew Biercz, both are inspectors.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Minutes from the June 15, 2004, meeting. A motion was made, seconded and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

Review Draft of Department's Annual Report

The Code of Virginia requires that the Department give an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly by October 1 of each year. Director Cristman distributed and reviewed a draft of the Report that will be submitted for Fiscal Year 2004. There is no action required by the Board for the report, but the Director welcomed any suggestions or comments from the Board regarding the draft.

Review Preliminary Draft of Proposed Regulations

Copies of the preliminary draft of the proposed changes to the Charitable Gaming Regulations were distributed to the Board. Director Cristman reviewed some of the important changes that are being proposed. The Chair reminded Board Members that a Public Forum for comments on this draft was scheduled for one hour following the adjournment of this Board meeting in this same room. At that time, members of the Department and any Board members who were available to stay would meet with members of the public to receive their input on the development of the regulations.

Report of Quarterly Electronic Reporting Pilot Program

The Department has just completed a pilot test period for receiving quarterly reports and payments electronically. Director Cristman reported that 11 organizations successfully participated in the pilot program. Each organization will receive a letter of appreciation stating that because of their assistance as inaugural members, the Department will waive their next permit renewal fees provided they send a copy of this letter with their renewal application.

Following this successful pilot program, a letter will be sent out inviting all the permitted organizations to enroll in the program in order to file their 4th Quarter report in December. The Department's goal for Spring 2005 is to develop the ability for organization to submit their permit renewal applications and their payments electronically. Organizations submitting applications for the first time will continue to do so on paper.

Byler Awards Subcommittee – Date to Review Staff Recommendations

The Chair asked the members of the Byler Award Subcommittee, Messrs. Carlton, Sheffield and Lehner to set a date to review the staff's recommendations for this year's awards. Betty Bowman, Assistant Director, is to communicate with the subcommittee members to set a date for a conference call for this review.

Other Business

Richard Miller questioned the status of a permit application for an organization that had their permit revoked, but recently the organization has approached several of the commercial halls in Tidewater about leasing space. Director Cristman replied that the Department had been working with this organization regarding the seriousness of recent gaming issues and has allowed them to re-submit a new application. He further stated that the new application will be thoroughly reviewed, but at this time the organization has not been permitted.

John Goolrick raised a question about the poker tournaments that are illegal, that have become very popular around the Commonwealth. He wanted to know if the Department has knowledge if any of the organizations currently running these tournaments and whether they are permitted charitable gaming organizations. Director Cristman reported that the staff is aware of this issue and is investigating several situations. He has also passed this information on to the Attorney General's office and staff is working with them to come up with a strategy on how to deal with this issue. As a point of clarification, the Director stated that playing Texas Hold 'Em poker for money is not an authorized form of charitable gaming in the Commonwealth.

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Public Comment

Pete Chiusano, an attorney representing the Virginia Bingo Group, distributed copies of a memo from the Virginia Bingo Group to the Board asking for their support to four proposed statutory changes to the current Charitable Gaming Statutes.

Mr. Chiusano also addressed the question of Native American gambling in the Commonwealth and how they would be regulated in terms of equity and fairness to permitted organizations.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 7, 2004, at 10:00 in the RF&P Forum Room of the Science Museum of Virginia.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Frances C. Jones

Frances C. Jones
Recorder

Clyde E. Cristman

Clyde E. Cristman
Director

CEC/fej
7/23/04