

FINAL MINUTES

Charitable Gaming Board
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Varina Library
Meeting Room
1875 New Market Road
Henrico, Virginia
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Charles Lessin called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m. Mr. Lessin led the Board and the public in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lessin asked Mr. Michael Menefee to call the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Charles Lessin, Chair
Ms. Petrina Jones
Ms. Lea Roberts
Ms. Amy Solares

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Tanya Conrad, Vice-Chair
The Honorable William Feasenmyer
Mr. Kenneth Fitzgerald
Mr. Samuel Kaufman
Mr. James Lewis
Mr. Bob Sussan

VDACS STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Joel Maddux, Deputy Director, Division of Consumer Protection
Mr. Michael Menefee, Program Manager, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Justin Bell, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Mr. Menefee informed Mr. Lessin that a quorum was not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Since a quorum was not present, Mr. Lessin deferred the approval of the draft minutes for the November 12, 2019, Board meeting until the next Board meeting.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Lessin asked members whether they had any reports for the Board. With no remarks from members, Mr. Lessin informed members that there were no reports before the Board.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD'S WORKGROUPS

Mr. Lessin asked Ms. Jones, Chair of the Legislative Recommendation workgroup whether she had a report for the Board on the workgroup's activities. Ms. Jones informed members she did not have any report for the Board, but expressed members should coordinate their visits to the Governor's Office and legislative committees on matters important to the Board. Mr. Lessin encouraged members to attend legislative committees and express their opinion to legislators on legislations affecting charitable gaming. Mr. Lessin asked Mr. Justin Bell for guidance regarding email communication among members, which Mr. Bell did so. Mr. Menefee reminded members on the requirements to retain all email communications among themselves as it relates to Board business. Mr. Bell recommended to members to create a new email address in order to assist them in properly retaining the email communications. With no further comments, Mr. Lessin moved to the Program Manager's report.

PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lessin asked Mr. Menefee whether he had a report for the Board. Mr. Menefee informed members that their financial disclosure statement is due soon and an email from Virginia's Ethic Council will provide them with information on how to file their disclosure, so members need to keep an eye out for this email. Mr. Lessin asked members whether they had any questions for Mr. Menefee. With no questions, Mr. Lessin moved onto the next agenda item.

OLD BUSINESS

With no old business before the Board, Mr. Lessin moved onto new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lessin informed members that the first half of 2020 meetings for the Board are as followed:

- January 7, 2020
- February 11, 2020
- March 10, 2020
- April 14, 2020
- May 12, 2020
- June 9, 2020

Mr. Lessin also expressed the need for the Board to change the use of proceeds requirement quickly as he was concerned that charitable gaming organizations will turn-in their permits in record numbers if the Board was unable to act quickly. Mr. Lessin asked Mr. Bell for guidance on how to change the use of proceeds requirement quickly. Mr. Bell informed members that the

Board may wish to seek a legislative fix to change the requirement or seek emergency regulations though the Board will need to justify the emergency. Mr. Lessin sought member's thoughts on pursuing a legislative fix separate from its original legislative recommendation submitted to the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry earlier. Mr. Menefee encouraged members to speak with the Secretary's Office if it opted for a legislative fix in order to avoid the Board acting independently of the administration.

Mr. Lessin further expressed his thoughts for a broader plan for charitable gaming, which the plan may include redefining the purpose of the Board beyond its current statutory parameters. Mr. Lessin and Ms. Roberts suggested that preservation, promotion and protection of charitable gaming could encapsulate the redefinition of the Board's purpose. Ms. Roberts also offered the idea on changing the number of electronic pull-tab devices allowed at a given location for inclusion in the broader plan. Mr. Lessin also expressed other ideas for the broader plan, including allowing charities to conduct tournament style Texas Hold'Em, prohibiting any casinos from conducting bingo games, and marketing the industry statewide.

Mr. Lessin asked whether any member had any further new business he/she wished to bring before the Board. With no further new business before the Board, Mr. Lessin moved onto public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Lessin reminded members of the upcoming Board meeting on January 7, 2020, in Richmond.

With no comments from the public and there being no further business, the Board adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Menefee
Program Manager
Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs