

FINAL MINUTES

Charitable Gaming Board – Game Variance Workgroup
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Varina Library
Meeting Room
1875 New Market Road
Henrico, Virginia
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. James Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. James Lewis, Chair
Ms. Lea Roberts

MEMBERS ABSENT:

The Honorable William Feasenmyer
Mr. Charles Lessin, Ex Officio

VDACS STAFF PRESENT:

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. Lewis that a quorum was present.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Lewis welcomed members and the public to the meeting of the Game Variance Workgroup.

REPORT FROM WORKGROUP MEMBERS

Mr. Lewis asked whether a member had any report for the workgroup. With no remarks from any of the members, Mr. Lewis moved onto new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lewis presented a proposed letter to the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry requesting financial support to allow members to travel to other states to seek information on new game concepts. Ms. Lea Roberts motioned to approve the proposed letter. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Lewis moved onto old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Lewis discussed the Board's approval process for game variance. Mr. Justin Bell offered comments on the process and encouraged the workgroup to consider public involvement as it considers a decision on each request for a game variance. Mr. Bell further stated that the workgroup could consider the use of a listening session as a means to involve the public. Mr. Lewis stated the workgroup will obtain public comment on each application for a game variance before the workgroup recommends an action to the Board.

Mr. Bell offered further comments that the workgroup will evaluate independently each application for a game variance. He further stated that the Virginia General Assembly granted the Board discretionary powers when it considers whether to approve a game variance.

Mr. Lewis discussed the Board's application for a game variance. Mr. Bell offered comments that the workgroup consider adding language to the application that it will not consider cosmetic changes to previously approved game variance or other existing charitable gaming activities. Mr. Lewis asked whether the public had any comments regarding the application and as such, Mr. Bob Jekanowski from Powerhouse Gaming, Inc. asked several questions. Ms. Roberts motioned to approve the application for a game variance with technical changes. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis asked for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 24, 2019, workgroup meeting. Ms. Roberts motioned approval of the draft minutes as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Lewis moved onto public comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

With no comments from the public and there being no further business, the workgroup adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Menefee
Program Manager
Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs