



Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 9, 2018
Mississippi Gaming Commission

Welcome and Call to Order

The MRPEA Board Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Ed Legrand.

Members Present

Virgil F. Belue
Tony Byrne
Margo Bowers
Howell Garner
Mike Larsen
Ed Legrand
Olin Lewis
Mike Lightsey

Robert McNeil
Michael Myrick
J. Hoopy Stringer
Dale T. Sullivan
Sam Valentine
Evelyn Webb
Wynona Winfield

Members Not Present

Ronald Bell
Richard Black
Alton Cobb
James Cushman
George Dale
Jane Dykes
Lester Herrington
Lucian Hill
Joe Johnson

Wylma King
Thomas Loftin
Randy McCoy
Keith Shaffer
Ann Thames
Billy Thames
Anita Toler
Wilma White
Marty Wiseman

Guest

Emily Pote, MRPEA Executive Director

Invocation

Ed Legrand called on Howell Gardner to give the invocation. Howell led the prayer.

Agenda Approval

Legrand asked for the approval of the board meeting agenda. Sam Valentine made a motion, Virgil Belue seconded the motion, and all approved.

PERS Update

Mike Larsen reported that the vote for the new PERS executive director was delayed at an earlier meeting, but pointed to the News Release in the Board Packet for information on the newly appointed executive director on PERS. He noted that we do not yet know much about

Ray Higgins, but that we look forward to inviting him to the Annual Meeting. Larsen also gave some information from the most recent PERS Board Meeting.

Old Business

Treasurer's Report

Mike Lightsey reported that as of March 31, the Trustmark checking account had a balance of \$30,644.03 and the Regions CD had a balance of \$45,054.71. Lightsey also presented the Expense report and Income report for February 1 through April 8, which included all expenses and income for this period. Expenses came to \$6,243.28 and income was at \$672.03. On the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual, Lightsey pointed out that total income for this fiscal year is \$7,425.80 and total expense is \$21,784.61. A motion was made by Sam Valentine and seconded by Tony Byrne. Motion passed.

Approval of February 12, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

Ann Thames asked for a motion to approve the February 12, 2018 board meeting minutes, which had been provided to the board members. Legrand moved for approval, and Garner. Motion passed.

Executive Director's Report

Emily Pote presented her Executive Director's Report, prepared in advance. She noted that she has kept all normal activities consistent and is working on the preparation for the 2018 Annual Meeting. She also presented the new MRPEA chip clip and announced that the Newsletter was completed

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Ed Legrand reported that the executive committee met with Milton Walker about MRPEA endorsing Insurance for Cancer and Heart through his company. Membership into MRPEA would be required to sign up for the insurance. Discussion was held. The question of liability on the organization was brought up, as was the request from membership to provide insurance. Legrand asked if the board approved looking into this further. Howell Garner called for a motion, Evelyn Webb seconded, all approved.

Networking

Mike Larsen reported on the Partners Meeting, noting that it was a good quality meeting. He let the board know that this committee will be focused on updating each group on what is going on in the legislature and that the partners dialogued the best ways to accomplish this goal, as well as more effective ways to get members involved.

Legislative

Ed Legrand reported that while the legislative session is over, he asked everyone to stay vigilant in the coming year. Legrand pointed to an article from the Courier Journal in Kentucky where

legislation was quickly passed through the legislature to negatively affect pensions. He noted that MRPEA will be surveying all candidates running for office in the coming election.

Communications

Wynona Winfield reported that she hopes to work more closely with the District directors, getting them membership lists to use. She would like to try out her grassroots efforts this year and encouraged all board members to find people in their districts to help with these efforts. Winfield reported that a legislative piece is still in the works. Discussion was held about providing the legislative representatives for each member. One board member pointed the group to parentcampaign.com as an easy way to find your legislative representatives.

Membership

Howell Garner presented the membership report. Since August, we have had 40 new annual members, 234 renewals, and 5 life members sign up. He encouraged everyone to reach out to those who might be interested in becoming a member. He stressed that we need to get across to active members of PERS that their retirement is not secured. He asked for a roster of new members each month. Discussion was also held about the information we are collecting from new members and how we can add more in NEON. One board member had the idea to send a letter in October to retired members who are not MRPEA members to encourage them to join by using \$20 of their COLA.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ed Legrand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:29 AM. Sam Valentine seconded the motion and all approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Emily Pote