



Board Caucus Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 10:00am
This meeting was held via conference call

Meeting Minutes

CAUCUS ATTENDEES

Chair Jane Rushford
Member Ollie Garrett
Member Russ Hauge
Dustin Dickson, Executive Assistant

GUESTS

Kathy Hoffman, Policy and Rules Manager
Casey Schaufler, Policy and Rules Coordinator

Jane welcomed everyone and clarified that consideration of the meeting minutes would be for the February 2, 2021 meeting and not January 2, 2021 as indicated on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Member Hauge moved to approve the February 2, 2021, Caucus meeting minutes.

SECOND: Member Garrett seconded.

ACTION: Chair Rushford approved the motion.

Jane informed that the Executive Session scheduled for today would be rescheduled for next Tuesday.

DELIBERATIVE DIALOGUE REVIEW

Kathy informed that 157 people were registered for the last “deliberative dialogue” and that 107 had attended, which included the panel as well as Board member Hauge. She noted that part of the improvement process would be to remind attendees that questions should be directed to, and for the panel, and not directed toward the agency. Kathy said that such questions (data requests, etc.) were delegated to LCB staff for follow up in order to continue with the intended panelist process.

Kathy reminded that the next “deliberative dialogue” session is this Thursday, February 11 at 1:30pm with labs. She added that the recordings of the sessions, including the “chats”, should be available soon on the LCB website.

Kathy asked Casey to clarify a few technical updates. Jane acknowledged the success of the program and said she was eager to hear more.

Casey clarified that during the “deliberative dialogue” session last week, there was a technical difficulty that inadvertently removed 15-20 attendees from the meeting. He said that some of the affected attendees offered concern that the disengagement had been intentional. Casey reassured that no one was intentionally removed from the session, appreciating that the discussion was civil and full of good questions. He encouraged that should this happen again in the future that anyone dropped from the meeting should attempt to log back in. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to clarify. Jane said she understood, underscoring there was no deliberate attempt to exclude anyone, as the process is intended to be as inclusive as possible. She thanked Casey for his statements, adding that she had not heard any negative response.

Kathy added that after the last “deliberative dialogue” some of the panel had reached out asking if there would be a way to continue the conversation and questions offered with only the panel, having Kathy moderating again as a supplement to the session. She said she was looking forward to developing the supplemental dialogue. Jane asked Kathy to clarify who the participants would be. Kathy informed that the follow-up would be the entire panel discussing the submitted questions that they didn’t get to the first time, without the attendees. She said the forum would be recorded and made available. Kathy added this would also provide another participation opportunity for one panelist from Eastern Washington that experienced similar connectivity issues during the first meeting and was ultimately unable to participate in real time.

Jane appreciated the accommodation and extension of opportunity especially for those that had technical constraints. She asked Russ if he had anything to add from an attendee perspective. Russ felt the session went very well and that technical issues had been well addressed. He added that he was looking forward to the next session.

Kathy added that the rules team would bring a CR 101 for consideration to the next Board meeting regarding WAC 314-55-040, pertaining to criminal history that may prevent a cannabis license applicant from receiving or keeping such a license. She said they would like reevaluate currently criminal history background standards and criteria in an effort to remove unnecessary barriers to entry in the cannabis market by individuals that have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization. Kathy said the belief was that consideration of the revisions would support socially equitable condition, by taking a look at and perhaps deconstructing current rules in ways that would give fair and meaningful access to economic opportunities that are afforded by cannabis legalization. Jane thanked Kathy for the update and looked forward to hearing more. Kathy confirmed the CR 101 would be ready for consideration by the Board next week.

Jane asked if there were any questions. There were none. Jane and the Board thanked Kathy for her efforts.

BOARD MEMBER AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT REPORTS

Ollie noted that Don Skakie (stakeholder) had his picture in the paper yesterday regarding his cannabis homegrow bill. She indicated the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force had been working diligently in determining what items could be considered immediately and what may need advanced rule or legislative work. Jane thanked Ollie for her leadership and acknowledged the demands as well as the importance of the work.

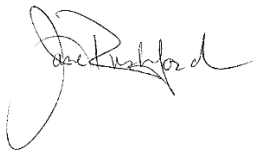
Russ looks forward to attending the upcoming “deliberative dialogue” sessions. He appreciated that they open a new front for stakeholders to contribute and appreciate the efforts of the rules team.

Dustin informed that testing for new virtual technology had moved into the second phase of testing, including temporary licenses for the Board and Board staff, allowing them to advance testing. He said he was looking forward to testing the abilities of the software in the coming weeks. Jane thanked Dustin for his leadership in advancing the process to secure preferred virtual options for the Board’s public engagement.

Jane reminded she was continuing to develop her exit plan and would continue to engage staff as the timeline progresses. She thanked everyone for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Minutes approved this 16th day of February, 2021.



Jane Rushford
Board Chair



Ollie Garrett
Board Member



Russ Hauge
Board Member

Minutes Prepared by: Dustin Dickson, Executive Assistant to the Board