

Thursday, February 3, 2022 6:30 pm
Teleconference Meeting

MINUTES

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and AB 361, members of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission as well as City staff will participate via phone/video conference and no physical teleconference locations are required.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INSTRUCTIONS

TO OBSERVE:

- To observe the meeting by video conference, please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87802409618>
- To listen to the meeting by phone, please call the numbers below at the noticed meeting time: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 9128 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656
or +1 301 715 8592

For each number, please be patient and when requested, dial the following Webinar ID: 878 0240 9618

After calling any of these phone numbers, if you are asked for a participant ID or code, press #. Instructions on how to join a meeting by phone are available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663>, which is a webpage entitled “Joining a Meeting By Phone.”

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: There are three ways to make public comment within the time allotted for public comment on an eligible Agenda item.

- Comment in advance. To send your comment to staff before the meeting starts, please send your comment, along with your full name and agenda item number you are commenting on, to Greg Minor at gminor@oaklandca.gov. All submitted public comment will be provided to the Cannabis Regulatory Commission prior to the meeting.
- By Video Conference. To comment by Zoom video conference, click the “Raise Your Hand” button to request to speak when Public Comment is being taken on an eligible agenda item at the beginning of the meeting. You will then be unmuted, during your turn, and allowed to participate in public comment. After the allotted time, you will then be re-muted. Instructions on how to “Raise Your Hand” are available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/205566129>, which is a webpage entitled “Raise Hand In Webinar.”

Persons may speak on any item appearing on the agenda; however, a Speaker Card must be filled out and given to a representative of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Multiple agenda items cannot be listed on one speaker card. If a speaker signs up to speak on multiple items listed on the agenda, the Chairperson may rule that the speaker be given an appropriate allocation of time to address all issues at one time (cumulative) before the items are called. All speakers will be allotted 3 minutes or less – unless the Chairperson allots additional time.

♿ This meeting is wheelchair accessible. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meetings of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission, please contact the Office of the City Clerk (510) 238-3612. Notification two full business days prior to the meeting will enable the City of Oakland to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. In compliance with Oakland’s policy for people with chemical sensitivities, please refrain from wearing strongly scented products to events.

Questions or concerns regarding this agenda, or to review any agenda-related materials, please contact the Cannabis Regulatory Commission at (510) 238-6370.

• **By Phone.** To comment by phone, please call on one of the above listed phone numbers. You will be prompted to “Raise Your Hand” by pressing STAR-NINE (“*9”) to request to speak when Public Comment is being taken on a eligible agenda item at the beginning of the meeting.

Once it is your turn, you will be unmuted and allowed to make your comment. After the allotted time, you will be re-muted. Instructions of how to raise your hand by phone are available at: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663>, which is a webpage entitled “Joining a Meeting by Phone.”

If you have any questions about these protocols, please e-mail Greg Minor, at gminor@oaklandca.gov

Members:

Vacant	District 1	Vacant	District 7
Tracey Corder	District 2	Chaney Turner	At Large
Austin Stevenson	District 3	Stephanie Floyd-Johnson	Mayor
Lauren Payne	District 4	TiYanna Long	City Auditor
Vacant	District 5	Greg Minor	City Administrator
Vacant	District 6		

Available on-line at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/boards-commissions/cannabis-regulatory-commission>

MEETING AGENDA

A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Present: Stevenson, Payne, Turner, Floyd-Johnson, Long and Minor
Absent: Corder

B. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Regular CRC Meeting on January 6, 2022

Member Stevenson moved to approve the minutes as drafted; Member Payne seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

C. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action

1. Adopt a Resolution Determining That Conducting In-Person Meetings Of The Cannabis Regulatory Commission Would Present Imminent Risks To Attendees’ Health, And Electing To Continue Conducting Meetings Using Teleconferencing In Accordance With California Government Code Section 54953(E), A Provision Of AB-361

Member Minor provided background on the item. One public speaker encourage the CRC to resume meeting in person; another member of the public noted that virtual meetings make it easier for the public to participate and have their voice heard.

Member Payne made a motion to accept the Resolution as drafted; Member Floyd-Johnson seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

2. Emerald New Deal Proposed Ballot Initiative

Lolis Ramirez, Gamila Abdelhalim, and Charles Byrd presented on behalf of the Emerald New Deal (END). They noted how the END would provide funds to support the cannabis equity program, workforce development, and train re-entry population. They then requested that the CRC formally endorse the END. Roughly fifteen public speakers spoke or wrote in favor of the END; some cannabis operators expressed concerns around cannabis taxes serving as the funding source for these programs and removing all cannabis tax revenue from the City's general fund.

Member Payne noted she had some concerns regarding the lack of operators in support of the proposal, the desires to lower cannabis taxes and provide more security for cannabis businesses but ultimately the funds are for the broader community. Chair Tuner pointed out that this is a complex issue; while everyone supports community reinvestment, not sure if the CRC can fully support the END. Chair Turner encouraged the proponents of END to listen to equity operators. Vice Chair Long appreciated the public speakers who spoke in support of the END.

Member Payne then made a motion to give the END more time to work with other stakeholders, especially regarding the issue of lowering cannabis tax rates and what percentage of the cannabis tax revenues will go towards the END programs. Chair Turner seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

3. Cannabis Security Assessment Proposal

Chris Eggers presented a presentation on how to improve the security of cannabis businesses. Member Floyd-Johnson noted the presentation lacked details, such as how much funding was being requested. Chair Turner also noted the presentation did not offer details on how the proposal would address the hundreds of different cannabis operators in Oakland. Member Floyd-Johnson inquired whether this proposal was solicited or unsolicited. Member Minor responded that this was an unsolicited proposal and the available local jurisdiction grant funds that will be available for security measures must go to provisionally licensed cannabis businesses, who can then choose what security measures to spend the funds on.

Chair Turner made a motion for Mr. Eggers to come back; Member Stevenson made a friendly amendment for Mr. Eggers to include a budget, staffing, and timeline. Chair Turner accepted the amendment and the motion passed by consensus.

Chair Turner then made a motion to extend the meeting a half hour beyond two hours, until 9pm. Member Payne seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

4. Overview of Legislative Framework for Next Phase of Cannabis Program

Member Minor walked through an outline of potential legislative changes to further the City's cannabis equity program. Public speakers spoke in support of allowing the transfer of permits from equity to non-equity businesses after a certain time period, inquired about any potential changes to the equity applicant eligibility, questions/concerns around incubation, questions/support around mentorship program and encouraged expanding eligible areas for cannabis businesses.

Vice-Chair Long encouraged keeping public hearing requirements to ensure communication between neighbors and dispensaries, even for locations previously approved for a dispensary. Member Payne encouraged moving things forward. Chair Turner made a motion for staff to provide an update on the utilization of the tax rebate program. Member Payne seconded the motion and it passed by consensus. Member Stevenson and Chair Turner encouraged more details on the mentorship.

Chair Turner made a motion to accept the report and recommend staff come back with more specific recommendations. Member Stevenson made a friendly amendment for staff to clarify the following priority items: 1) how will equity cultivators and manufacturers be prioritized under the proposed second permitting phase; 2) what change will be made to tax rebate program; 3) requirements for the transferring of permits from equity to non-equity businesses; 4) the structure and definition of mentorship program; and 5) changes to public hearing requirements. Chair Turner seconded the motion and it passed by consensus.

5. Implementation Update on Current State Grants

This item was skipped due to time.

D. Review of the Pending List and Additions to Next Month's Agenda

- *Follow Up Questions re Revenue Management Bureau Report (since June 2021)*
- *Loan Program Analysis (since November 2021)*
- *Building and Fire Baseline Permitting Timelines (since January 2022)*

This item was skipped due to time.

E. Open Forum / Public Comment

Francis Calpotura and Charles Byrd of END expressed disappointment in the CRC's lack of endorsement of the END. They said they will continue to challenge the cannabis industry to do the right. Another speaker encouraged the END to incorporate operators in their proposal and for staff to prioritize the transferring of permits from equity to general applicants.

F. Announcements

1. Update on Cannabis Permitting Process
2. Apply to serve on CRC here:

<https://oakland.granicus.com/boards/w/8552f8c4c0e15460/boards/6697>

Member Minor announced potential upcoming zoom meeting regarding updates to cannabis operator regulations and the recent \$5.4 million Go-Biz grant award for this year. Member Minor stated that staff will send out surveys to equity applicants in February and present a proposal to the CRC in March.

G. Adjournment