

SPENDING AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY (SAGE) COMMISSION
Thursday, June 25, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.
Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 1100
555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Bruce James, Don Ahern, Barbara Campbell, Robert Feldman, Robert Forbuss, Randy Garcia, David Goldwater, Stephen Greathouse, Steven Hill, Jan Jones, Jerome Snyder, Carole Vilardo

Absent: Howard Putnam, Jim Thornton

Also present: Frank Partlow (Executive Director), Perry Comeaux (Deputy Director), Suzanne Kilgore (General Manager)

I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM.

Chairman James called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and roll call confirmed a quorum of Commissioners was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 23, 2009 MEETING

Steven Greathouse moved to approve the Minutes of the April 23, 2009 Commission Meeting as presented. Randy Garcia seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman James explained that the May 25, 2009 Commission Meeting did not have a quorum and notes of that informational-only non-meeting were not subject to approval.

III. REPORT FROM GOVERNOR'S STAFF REGARDING POST-2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS OF ALL SAGE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DATE.

Executive Director Partlow reviewed a report prepared in conjunction with the Governor's Legislative Director Jodi Stephens reviewing action in the Legislature on each SAGE recommendation to date. Commissioner Vilardo offered clarification and corrections regarding action on several items.

IV. REVIEW OF NOTES FROM MAY 28, 2009 COMMISSION MEETING AND DISCUSSION OF STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR THE SAGE COMMISSION DURING 2009-2010.

Chairman James stated he feels the Commission has made incremental progress and asked Commission Members to comment on their evaluation and interest in moving ahead for the coming year. Commissioner comments indicated a consensus that SAGE Recommendations had resulted in greater awareness of issues and of their interest in reaching out to Legislative Leaders to ensure their understanding of SAGE work.

Chairman James reported he had met with the Governor earlier that day and conveyed the Governor's appreciation to commission members for their efforts. The Governor indicated his resolve to address SAGE Recommendations that had been put aside for consideration once the Legislative Session was adjourned. Commissioner discussion indicated that SAGE should now concentrate on actions that could be effected by the authority of the Governor and that SAGE should find an advocate in the Executive branch to follow through on Recommendations. Commission members offered suggestions for seeking funding for SAGE, which operates on public donations with minimal staff and expenses.

At Noon, Chairperson James called for a lunch break. At 12:15 p.m., the meeting resumed, continuing with agenda item IV.

Commissioner Goldwater reviewed suggestions from the Budget Process Task Force at the non-quorum session in May. Commissioners were in agreement that Proposals be drafted for Commission consideration on several issues.

Chairman James recognized Speaker of the Assembly Barbara Buckley in the audience and related to her the Commission's interest in interacting with Legislative leaders. The Speaker encouraged Commission contact of this nature to increase legislators' understanding of the rationale behind Recommendations. Even though the Commission will expire before the 2011 Legislative Session, she felt the effort would be worthwhile in advance of the session.

V. JUNE 30, 2009, FOURTH 90-DAY REPORT TO GOVERNOR.

Chairman James noted that Recommendation #24, adopted at the April 23, 2009 meeting would be included in the June 30 Report to the Governor.

A. Steven Greathouse moved that Proposal A be adopted by the Commission as presented. Robert Forbuss seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as Recommendation #25.

B. Carole Vilardo moved that Proposal B be adopted by the Commission as presented. Barbara Smith Campbell seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously and will be submitted to the Governor as Recommendation #26.

VI. REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCE ACTION PLANS AND DETERMINATION OF SCHEDULING FOR REPORTS TO THE GOVERNOR FOR EACH TASK FORCE.

- a) Information Technology. Executive Director Partlow reported the Task Force had drafted a vision statement as part of developing a strategic plan. The next Task Force meeting will be July 24. Chairman James asked that the draft be sent to Commissioners for review.
- b) HHS Standardization & Regulatory Issues. Deputy Director Comeaux and Commissioner Vilardo reported they are finalizing definitions of costs and fees for a proposal.
- c) HHS Mental Health Services. No report.
- d) HHS Health Care Systems. Deputy Director Comeaux reported they are continuing to work on prescription prices and are researching privatization costs and experiences in other jurisdiction.
- e) Personnel. Commissioner Jones reported they are focusing on setting up a meeting with agency heads to discuss centralization of personnel functions.
- f) Dept. of Corrections/Prison Parole Program. Commissioner Ahern reported the 2009 Legislature did not favor consideration of closing remote location prison facilities or the Nevada State Prison, even when presented with the cost savings. Rather, the current philosophy is to keep the jobs spread around the state. The Task Force will review possible recommendations based on Senator Horsford's bill (SB398) and discussions with DOC Director Howard Skolnik.
- g) Purchasing/Procurement. Executive Director Partlow reported exploration of credit card processing fees had produced no opportunity for savings.
- h) Real Estate/Public Works Board/Public Private Partnerships. Chairman James reported to Commissioner Snyder that he had spoken with the Governor about the recommended inventory and learned there is resistance within state government to using an outside company for this task.
- j) Budget Process. Discussed earlier in the meeting.
- k) Department of Motor Vehicles. Commissioner Feldman reported DMV is moving forward with the insurance verification program and working on ways to identify of out-of-state registered vehicles.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND DISCUSSION. Time limit, three minutes per person. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item until the matter itself has been specifically included on an Agenda as an item on which action will be taken.

A letter from Daryl Drake, Commercial Real Estate broker, Reno, NV was read to the Commission by Executive Director Partlow. It commended Commissioners on their work and expressed support for the SAGE Commission's agenda for the balance of its term.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT.

At 2:20 pm, Barbara Smith Campbell moved that the meeting be adjourned. The Motion was seconded by Carole Vilardo and was carried unanimously.