Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Minutes from AMMC Meeting

On the 8th of December 2020, the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commission (AMMC) convened at Little Rock, Arkansas. In attendance were the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Commissioners: Justin Smith.

Via Video/conference: Dr. Ronda Henry-Tillman Chairperson, Kevin Russell, J.P. Mobley, Travis Story.

Commissioner Tillman called the meeting to order. The Minutes were approved from the November meeting pursuant to Commissioner Travis Story's motion and second by Commissioner Mobley. Vote 5-0. The next agenda item was the change of ownership applications. The first permit discussed was Permit 88 Natural State Medicinals. He was represented by Robin Rahman presenting. The change included the removal of Steven LaFrance and Joe Courtright. Alonzo D. Williams will be the Permittee. Commissioner Mobley made a motion to accept the change of ownership. I was seconded by Commissioner Russell and passed 5-0. The next permit was Permit 123 Good Day Farm, LLC. Alex Gray presenting adding to the owners list. Travis Story made a motion to accept the request and it was seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed 5-0.

The next agenda item to discuss was the expansion of the dispensaries. Senator Bill Sample addressed the Commission and asked for Zone 6 to be expanded to five permits. Christina Richardson spoke to patient complaints regarding the lack of dispensaries and cost. Nic Easley was listed on the agenda but failed to appear on the teleconference. Melissa Fults addressed the Commission regarding the need to expand the dispensaries to the maximum number allowed by the Amendment. Stephen Smith, SC & H Law firm spoke in support of expanding the dispensary in Zone 4 and asserts that the next one in line would be Zone 4 to River Valley. Upon conclusion of the speakers, discussion was held among the Commissioners. Commissioner Story stated that the dispensaries were held open to assign where patients would be better served and could be more targeted. Chairman Tillman detailed the access information submitted in and reminded the Commission that after expiration of the reserve list that there would have to be a new application process. Commissioner Smith discussed his concerns of patient accessibility and the population numbers for Zone 4. Commissioner Mobley agrees that it appears there is an underservice of patients in Zone 4. Commissioner Story requested advise from legal counsel Butch Reeves and Sara Farris regarding formation issues related to the next highest scoring dispensary in Zone 4. – River Valley Relief. Legal advice was provided and Commissioner Story indicated that he perceives a problem with River Valley Relief's corporation being dissolved.

Director Chandler advised that the next highest scorer on the list that has not requested a refund was River Valley Relief with a score of 334.50. The next on after River Valley Relief was 3J Investments with a score of 325.89. Commissioner Story made a motion that they would move to say River Valley Relief is dissolved and the entity is ineligible; therefore, the next in line in Zone 4 should be awarded the remaining license. The motion was seconded by Chairman Tillman. The motion carried 5-o. The next item was in regards to the additional license to Zone 6. Commissioner Story indicated that he does not believe anything has changed since the last discussions on Zone 6. After discussion regarding Zone 6 Commissioner Smith made a motion to award the additional dispensary in Zone 6 so the patients can be better served. The motion was seconded by Chairman Tillman. The motion failed 2-3 with Commissioners Russell, Mobley and Story voting against. Director Chandler indicated that the only remaining zone to discuss was Zone 8. Commissioner Story made a motion to not consider Zone 8. The motion was seconded by Chairman Tillman and passed 5-0.

Chairman Tillman thanked Governor Hutchinson for the last four years and the legislators. She thanked the AG's office, Butch and Sara, as well as Doralee and her ABC staff. She asked that everyone take care of the State and the people you know. Commissioner Smith echoed Chairman Tillman's comments with special thanks to Doralee for working tirelessly to give the Commission the materials that needed. He thanked the Commission's legal counsel and Senator Dismang for the appointment.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 19, 2021.