



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE ABLE COMMISSION MEETING
May 19, 2023

The filing of the meeting and posting of the agenda were in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. The notice of the meeting was filed with the Secretary of State on October 5, 2022. The agenda was posted on May 16, 2023, on the front and back doors of the 50 Northeast 23rd Street building in Oklahoma City, the door of the ABLE Commission's Office Reception area, and the ABLE Commission website.

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. at the office of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement (ABLE) Commission at 50 Northeast 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. A quorum was met with the presence of the following Commission members: Jonathan Brooks; Bob Usry; Matthew Crook; Keith Mitchell; A. Ainslie Stanford II and Austin Benton.

The visitors that were in attendance were: J.B Jarboe, Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits; Justin Naifeh, Republic National Distributing Company; Alex Adkins, Beer Distributors of Oklahoma; Heidi Shadid, LDF/ Beer Distributors of Oklahoma; Samantha Guinn, Institute for Responsible Alcohol Policy, Robert Jernigan and Dirk Van Veen, Retail Liquor Association of Oklahoma; Jose Almanzar, Homeland; Don Caudill and Donna Flores, Loves; Collin Graham, Oklahoma Restaurant Association; Randy Malone, Oklahoma Beverage Law; Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, LegisOK; Ellen Spiropoulous, Phillips Murrah; Russell Thorpe, Oklahoma Distillers Guild; Seth Carter, OnCue; and Jody Fisher, Fisher59.

The following ABLE Commission employees in attendance were: Director Brandon Clabes; Deputy Director/General Counsel Lori Carter; Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Treadwell; Captain Erik Smoot; Captain Kent James; Captain Mike Randol; Captain Greg Bynum; Senior Agent Kristin Wilson Licensing Supervisor Carla Clanton; Executive Secretary Shae Isaacs; and Legal Administrative Assistant Kimberly Yates.

A roll call of the following ABLE Commissioners was announced: Chairman Jonathan Brooks, Commissioner Robert "Bob" Usry, Commissioner Matthew Crook, Commissioner Keith Mitchell, Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford II and Commissioner Austin Benton. A quorum was then established for the ABLE Commission meeting May 19, 2023.

Deputy Director Lori Carter acknowledged that the ABLE Commission is compliant with the Open Meetings Act. A notice of the meeting and agenda were posted 48 hours prior to the meeting and in accordance with Oklahoma statute 25 O.S. §311.

Director Brandon Clabes introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Austin Benton from the Lawton Police Department. Commissioner Benton received a unanimous vote at the Senate confirmation hearing that was on May 5, 2023.

Commissioner Usry made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Matthew Crook – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford II – Yes
Commissioner Austin Benton – Abstain

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR MAY 2023:

Director Brandon Clabes provided the following information to the ABLE Commission:

- Director Clabes met with many different entities, committees and agencies including: Oklahoma City Rotary Luncheon, Oklahoma City Police Department (OKCPD), Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI), Medal of Valor Ceremony at the White House in Washington D.C., Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Oklahoma Department of Health (ODH), Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHS), Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC), Department of Public Safety (DPS), Rose State College Board of Regents meeting, Senate Confirmation Hearing, Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (OBND), Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), Cabinet Secretary of Public Safety for the State of Oklahoma Tricia Everest along with several constituents and concerned citizens of the public.
- The Director attended ACCELA training that was provided by ACCELA executives exclusively for the ABLE Commission on April 24-26.
- The Director established a new “Firearms Policy Committee”. He met with them to discuss additional weapons for agents and estimated costs.
- The ABLE Commission is in the process of possibly purchasing new vehicles and badges in anticipation for the recent budget request for new agents.
- The ABLE Commission staff had their quarterly staff meeting with the department leads. The new organizational chart was presented with the announcement of Lori Carter moving into the Assistant Director position after the retirement of current the Assistant Director, Brent Fairchild. Also, Senior Agent Kristen Wilson will cross train with the Trade Practices Unit as Lieutenant Zardeneta will be moving to Tulsa District.
- The alcohol purchase surveys that the ABLE Commission performs under the Mental Health Grant are due this month. There have been 800 completed so far. Captain Erik Smoot will provide more information upon completion.
- Director Clabes and Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Treadwell has a meeting to discuss an update on ABLE finances and personnel issues.
- The ABLE Commission has a scheduled in-service defensive tactics course for the enforcement agents to be conducted within the coming weeks.
- The ABLE Commission has entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement with DPS for services that will assist the ABLE agents with dispatching services.
- Director Clabes and Captain Greg Bynum met with the Fleet Manager from OMES, Nathan Pumphrey, to discuss the installation of automatic vehicle location tracking systems for the ABLE vehicles.
- Director Clabes assigned the ABLE Licensing Supervisor, Carla Clanton, to start a project in removing historical data from the ABLE Commission’s antiquated mainframe system.
- ABLE Commission agents assisted the Stillwater Police Department and Payne County Sheriff’s Department with a large annual event and also with a traffic safety check.
- The next ABLE Commission meeting will be in 4 weeks on June 16, 2023.

- The Licensing Supervisor and Project Manager, Carla Clanton, presented the Accela IT update. As of May 10, 2023, an ABLE Enforcement Captain or designated Enforcement agent will attend the Accela bi-weekly meeting and relay the information to the Enforcement team. There are pending issues affecting the customer side that are currently being addressed. Some of those issues are properly being able to register for an ABLE license, retrieving receipt copies and being able to print a copy of a current ABLE license. These issues are being address with the upmost importance and a future update will be provided. The latest count of registered ABLE licensed users that have registered in the new online system is 112,343.

The Enforcement Report was presented to the Commissioners:

- The following ABLE Commission Captains presented an update of their respective departments and tasks that have been completed since the last Commission meeting: Captain Kent James, Tulsa District; Captain Michael Randol, McAlester District; Senior Agent Kristin Wilson, Oklahoma City District; Captain Erik Smoot, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Unit; and Captain Greg Bynum, Trade Practices Unit.

Captain Erik Smoot stated that the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators conference is scheduled for June 11-14, 2023. The conference will be held at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel.

Deputy Director/General Counsel Lori Carter presented the following legal report to the Commission: Deputy Director Carter stated that there were 59 cases in total for the month of May. There have been 37 cases resolved. The docket will continue to be updated on the ABLE website. She stated that the legal department has been receiving numerous calls regarding businesses requesting for employee licenses. A new rule has been implemented that the employer will need to submit an open records request for a copy of an individual license or have the employee print their license from the online licensing system and supply it to the employer. She continues to work with the legislature on the ABLE Commission's budget request and is still tracking bills from the House and Senate that may affect the ABLE Commission.

The ABLE Commission/OSBI Chief Financial Officer, Jennifer Treadwell, presented a PowerPoint presentation and covered the following topics: cash balances, cash balance comparison, revenue, revenue comparison, transfer of revenue, expenditures, expenditures comparison, online refunds issued, and collaborations with OSBI.

Chairman Brooks moved to Item #14, comments from the public.

- Ellen Spiropoulous with Phillips Murrah expressed concerned with the ongoing Accela issues and commented about an ongoing resolution for possible future problems.
- Dirk Van Veen commented about his appreciation with the ongoing improvement and transparency with the ABLE Commission and upcoming legislation that may affect the agency.
- Jose Almanzar with Homeland commented on the ongoing issues with the Accela licensing system.
- Collin Graham with Oklahoma Restaurant Association thanked the ABLE Commission and the Oklahoma Sheriff's Department for their information regarding inspections and false identifications.

Commissioner Usry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crook seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Matthew Crook – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner A. Ainslie Stanford II – Yes

Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:28am.



Jonathan Brooks, Chairman