



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LAWS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE ABLE COMMISSION MEETING
June 16, 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 June 13, 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 10:02 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; Andrew Revelis; Bob Usry; Matthew Crook; Keith Mitchell; and Austin Benton.

The visitors that were in attendance were: Edward Tuya, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Alex Adkins, Beer Distributors of Oklahoma; Brett Robinson and Spencer Guinn, 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; Danna Flores, Loves; Collin Graham, Oklahoma Restaurant Association; Charles Lindsey-Outlaw, LegisOK; Ellen Spiropoulous, Phillips Murrah Law Firm; Anne McKinney, Oklahoma Beer Alliance; and Connie Pearson, Tyler, Oklahoma.

The following ABLE Commission employees in attendance were: Director Brandon Clabes; Assistant Director/General Counsel Lori Carter; Assistant Director Brent Fairchild; Chief Financial Officer Jennifer Treadwell; Captain Erik Smoot; Captain Kent James; Captain Mike Randol; Captain Greg Bynum; Senior Agent Kristin Wilson; Senior Agent Vanessa Blain; Senior Agent Tania Rembert; 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, Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis, Commissioner Robert "Bob" Usry, Commissioner Keith Mitchell, and Commissioner Austin Benton. A quorum was then established for the ABLE Commission meeting June 16, 2023.

Assistant 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.

The ABLE Commission recognized Assistant Director Brent Fairchild for his 34 years of service to the ABLE Commission and the State of Oklahoma. Kind words of appreciation were exchanged, and a plaque was presented to him.

Commissioner Usry made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2023 Commission meeting. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT FOR JUNE 2023:

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

- Director Clabes met with many different entities, committees, agencies and conferences including: Oklahoma City Rotary Luncheon, KFOR Channel 4 News Oklahoma City, Oklahoma City Police Department (OKCPD), Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) Conference in Durant, National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations (OSBI), Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Oklahoma Department of Health (ODH), Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS), Department of Public Safety (DPS), Rose State College Board of Regents meeting, Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES), Rose State College Board of Regents Meeting, Department of Corrections (DOC), Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), Representative Ross Ford, Cabinet Secretary of Public Safety for the State of Oklahoma Tricia Everest along with several constituents and concerned citizens of the public.
- The ABLE Commission has received a budget increase of approximately 85% in appropriations from the State of Oklahoma due to the diligent assistance from Assistant Director Lori Carter. This increase will assist with hiring new personnel across the agency and equipment for potential new agents.
- The Director met with Kevin Ogle, Mike Turpen and Todd Lamb with Oklahoma’s Channel 4 News Program “Flashpoint” to discuss the new direction of the ABLE Commission.
- The ABLE Commission is in the process of purchasing new vehicles in anticipation for the new oncoming agents. The Cabinet Secretary of Public Safety for the State of Oklahoma, Tricia Everest, has approved the purchase. Captain Greg Bynum is the fleet manager for the ABLE Commission and will be supervising this project.
- There have been new job opportunities posted internally and externally with the agency. Those positions include the new Chief Law Enforcement Agent position, 2 customer service positions, an accounting position and an internal Lieutenant promotion position. More information will be provided once the positions have been filled.
- Director Clabes and Assistant Director/General Counsel Lori Carter met with industry representatives regarding concerns in reference to ABLE posting wine and spirits pricing online.
- Director Clabes, Assistant Director Carter Captain Erik Smoot met with Oklahoma Department of Health and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to negotiate ABLE’s current contracts with those entities.
- Director Clabes and Assistant Director Carter met with the OSBI human resources department to discuss a variety of personnel issues and job openings within ABLE and to also identify exempt employees within the ABLE Commission.
- Director Clabes spoke with Representative Ross Ford about the new Vape Registration law. Representative Ford inquired about how many more ABLE agents would be necessary to inspect businesses and make sure compliance is maintained. The ABLE Commission will continue to work with him during the next legislative session.
- The next ABLE Commission meeting will be in 4 weeks on July 21, 2023.

- The Licensing Supervisor and Project Manager, Carla Clanton, presented the Accela IT update. Ms. Clanton has requested 10 additional licenses/users for access to an administrative Accela account for the additional vacant positions to be filled at ABLE. Assistant Director Carter joined the Accela bi-weekly meeting on June 7th and emphasized the high priority need of one of our pending MAS cases. There was also a demonstration video available for an additional component that Accela has available to assist ABLE with customizing the Citizen Access side of the Accela platform. The more user-friendly web design allows customers to have a much better customer experience. Ms. Clanton has requested a recording of the demonstration video and a quote of the cost of the item for Director Clabes. The latest count of registered ABLE licensed users that have registered in the new online system is 129,514.

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.

Chairman Brooks requested, with the next Commission meeting, for the Captains to also provide a list of ways the agency and Commission can assist them in their duties.

Captain Erik Smoot gave a report on the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators conference that was held on June 11-14, 2023 at the Omni Oklahoma City Hotel. Captain Smoot stated that there was approximately 350 people that attended the event and it was very beneficial and great publicity for Oklahoma.

Assistant Director/General Counsel Lori Carter presented the following legal report to the Commission: Assistant Director Carter stated that there are 8 cases pending for the remaining part of June, 54 pending cases for July and there have been 16 cases resolved. The docket will continue to be updated on the ABLE website every Tuesday and Thursday. Assistant Director Carter stated that she and the Licensing Supervisor, Carla Clanton, are in constant communication with Accela executives in an effort to move forward with a more customer service oriented experience for the ABLE licensing website. She continues to work with the legislature on the ABLE Commission's budget request so the agency can hire new staff for the licensing and enforcement departments. She is also 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 as of May 31, 2023, revenue comparison, transfer of revenue as of May 31, 2023, expenditures as of May 31, 2023, expenditures comparison, online refunds issued in May 2023, and the budget for fiscal year 2024.

Chairman Brooks moved to Item #15, comments from the public.

- Collin Graham with the Oklahoma Restaurant Association gave his appreciation to the ABLE Commission regarding supplying information about updated laws and licensing.

- Ellen Spiropoulous with Phillips Murrah Law Firm stated that she feels that the great part of a ABLE agent's customer service duties are the on-site licensing inspections that allow the agent to meet the business owners firsthand.

Chairman Brooks moved on to Item #16, Executive Session to discuss ABLE Personnel Action pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307 (B)(1). Commissioner Revelis made a motion to move into Executive Session. Commissioner Usry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

Commissioners entered Executive Session at 11:33 a.m.

Commissioners exited Executive Session at 12:24 p.m.

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. and called for a motion to return from Executive Session. Commissioner Revelis made the motion to return from Executive Session. Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

No action was taken after Executive Session.

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

Chairman Jonathan Brooks – Yes
Vice Chairman Andrew Revelis – Yes
Commissioner Robert “Bob” Usry – Yes
Commissioner Keith Mitchell – Yes
Commissioner Austin Benton – Yes

The meeting was then adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Jonathan Brooks, Chairman