CASINO REVENUE FUND ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 27, 2015

MINUTES OF MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission was held on Friday, March 27, 2015. Those in attendance were:

Commission:

James Thebery, Chair

Enid Torok, Vice Chair

Tina Zsenak, DHS. Div. Aging Service

Jim Carney, Seniors

Joanne Fetzko, NJ4A

Samantha DeAlmeida, for Asm. Chris Brown

Support Staff:

Desmond Webb, Treasury - OMB

Karen Storcella, Dept. of Treasury

Guests:

Ryan Reilly, Ocean Cty Trans.

Sharon Harrington, CCC

Lea Sheridan, NJ Transit

Monroe Larzmore – public visitor

The meeting was called to order by James Thebery at 11:00am, followed by the Flag salute led by Tina Zsenak. James Thebery welcomed commission members & guests and thanked them for attending. The minutes of the January meeting are still pending.

**Joanne Fetzko** read excerpt from article **“NJ again makes case in court for Las Vegas-style sports bets**”: The argument this time in the Philadelphia courtroom was that a second state sports betting law passed last fall is constitutional. Attorneys for the state said the new law was crafted keeping in mind the 3rd Circuit’s 2013 ruling that upheld a federal ban. The judges had concluded that a 23-year-old federal law, preventing most states from offering betting, supersedes the state law. That ruling noted that the state would be free, however, to repeal its sports betting laws, in whole or I part,” as long as it does not license or authorize such betting. Under the new state law, therefore, the tracks and casinos would be responsible for oversight of sports betting at their facilities.

Another article: **“Significant bid to buy Revel”** states, A billionaire Manhattan developer and one of NJ’s most experienced real estate executives are teaming up on a bid for the bankrupt Revel casino in Atlantic city. A successful revitalization of Revel – whether as a casino, condominiums or a mixed-use property – would be a significant shot in the arm for a struggling Atlantic city, where the casino industry’s gross revenues have declined by more than 50 percent since 2006 in the wake of increased competition from other states.

**Newsletter form NJ Office of the Attorney General:** Internet gaming Win was $10.4 million in February compared to $10.3 million in February 2014, reflecting an increase of 0.9%. It should be noted that the Internet Gaming Win was impacted by $1.5 million in online winnings by a customer playing on betfaircasino.com on February 14, 2015. Including Discontinued Operators, Total Gaming Win of $178.4 million for February 2015 was 14.8% lower than the $209.4 million reported last year.

**Sharon Harrington** highlighted upcoming events and positive changes to Atlantic City:

Borgata is developing entertainment venue for concerts. Memorial Day through Labor Day already booked.

Caesars developing state of the art conference center appealing to future 500 corporations. This should be completed by summer 2015.

Bass Pro Shops opening in spring 2015. The AC aquarium to be reconstructed for a more inviting look.

Owner of the Steel Pier is building a new Ferris wheel, the “Eye in the Sky”.

Pacific Avenue is scheduled to be repaved in the fall 2015.

**The CRFAC Annual Report**: Each committee member will take their portion of report and update accordingly. Updates to be sent to Tina Zsenak & Joanne Fetzko, and then they will forward to Jim Thebery. Jim Thebery also suggested, for the report, to make statements and use charts.

Jim Carney mentioned that the first paragraph in the Annual Report should state what the Casino Revenue Fund Advisory Commission (CRFAC) is about and what the committee contributes to the communities.

Enid Torok mentioned a large increase in funds is needed for the growing cases of Autism.

Ryan Reilly mentioned the need for funding Transportation. Ryan also stated that he wants to make sure the community will have the transportation to get to: dialysis, nursing homes and any other appointments. This is for both children and the elderly in the community. Joanna Fetzko stated the impact transportation has on the community and is highly recommended for funds. Jim Thebery thanked Ryan for his input and asked for his recommendations for the Annual Report. Also, make note to increase transportation to 8 ½% on the Annual Report.

Jim Thebery, Enid Torok and Ryan Reilly will check status, from the Governor’s office, on the appointment of Ryan Reilly to the commission.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30p. Next meeting will be held in on Friday, May 29, 2015 at the State House Annex Room 1, Trenton, NJ.