

Cannabis Regulatory Commission (former Measure Z)

Thursday, February 21st, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Meeting Minutes

Members:

Dale Gieringer	District 1	Vacant	District 7
Charles Mintz	District 2	A. Kathryn Parker	At Large
Sierra Martinez	District 3	Leslie Bonett	Mayor
James Anthony	District 4	Vacant	City Auditor
Matt Hummel	District 5	Joe DeVries	City Administrator
Marlon Hendrix	District 6		

Available on-line at: <http://www.oaklandnet.com/measurez>

AGENDA

A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Members Mintz, Martinez, Hendrix, Parker, Chairperson Bonnet and Joe DeVries were present. Vice Chair Hummel, and Members Gieringer and Anthony were absent.

Member Mintz announced that he is resigning from his post due to moving out of Oakland.

B. Open Forum / Public Comment

There were no public speakers.

C. Review of the Pending List

No Changes were made to the list.

D. Approval of the Draft Minutes from the Cannabis Regulatory Commission meeting of January 17th, 2012.

The January Minutes were approved with minor corrections.

E. Reports for Discussion and Possible Action

1. What can Oakland do now to support California Cannabis liberation in 2016?

Persons may speak on any item appearing on the agenda; however a Speaker Card must be filled out and given to a representative of the Measure Z Commission. Multiple agenda items cannot be listed on one speaker card. If a speaker signs up to speak on multiple items listed on the agenda, the Chairperson may rule that the speaker be given an appropriate allocation of time to address all issues at one time (cumulative) before the items are called. All speakers will be allotted 3 minutes or less – unless the Chairperson allots additional time.

 This meeting is wheelchair accessible. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the meetings of the Measure Z Commission, please contact the Office of the City Clerk (510) 238-3612. Notification two full business days prior to the meeting will enable the City of Oakland to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. In compliance with Oakland's policy for people with chemical sensitivities, please refrain from wearing strongly scented products to events.

Questions or concerns regarding this agenda, or to review any agenda-related materials, please contact the Measure Z Commission at (510) 238-3301.

This item was tabled since neither Member Gieringer or Anthony were present but Member Parker pointed out that a lot of information would likely be coming out of the CA NORML Event that had just taken place.

2. A (continuation of the) discussion and possible action on the discrepancy in the terms of office of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission in the by-laws versus the enabling legislation.

Chairperson Bonett asked for clarification about this item as it was discussed in January and she was absent. Member Parker reviewed the discrepancy between the by-laws and the Ordinance and stated she was interested in consistency. Chairperson Bonett suggested that last month's discussion contained inaccuracies; specifically, she believes that member Anthony was incorrect about past chairs serving a one year term. Chairperson Bonett recalls prior chairs serving for two years, including Mr. Anthony and Mr. Lee.

Member Parker noted that there was not a super-majority present at the meeting to change the by-laws anyway so the discussion was continued to the April Meeting (Member Parker can not be present in March).

3. Discussion and planning for presentation to the Public Safety Committee on February 26th.

The Commission discussed the fact that this was a significant report as there are three new Council Members all of whom are on the Public Safety Committee. Several committee members indicated different subject areas they were interested in highlighting when the report goes before council.

Member Martinez intends to discuss the disproportionate number of people of color arrested for cannabis offenses; he also intends to thank Lt. Poirier for his work on this issue. Member Parker intends to discuss the Federal Action and desire for a Council Resolution condemning them. She also intends to discuss the needed changes to the City's Smoking Ordinance and would highlight the events/revenue the City loses each year due to the restriction.

Chairperson Bonett stated she would cover the vacancies that hamstringing the Commission's work as well as the long standing problem the Commission has with the City's definition of private as it pertains to cannabis offenses. She also intends to highlight the changing politics as Colorado and Washington have moved past California in legalizing adult use across the board. Last she wanted to touch on the need to do a public education campaign about what the meaning of private offenses is to help avoid Oaklanders getting cited or arrested by OPD due to a lack of understanding of the law.

Three Public Speakers spoke on this item as well:

David Abernathy discussed the economic aspects of Measure Z and the multiplier effect of cannabis businesses in Oakland. He noted that Oaksterdam brings a lot of people into Oakland generating jobs and revenue and that changing the City's definition of private would increase revenue and jobs even further.

Brandon White commented that he has lived in Oakland for several years and has smoked in public without being harassed. However, he noted that many people, especially in communities of color, do not know of Measure Z, Measure Z Clubs, or their rights. He feels a public education campaign would be a worthy endeavor. He also had several questions about the arrest data that the committee clarified.

Walter Allen was interested in seeing how much tax revenue is generated through cannabis sales (believed to be approximately \$1.4 million annually). He would like to see that information emphasized during the presentation to Council.

F. Announcements

It was announced that the NORML East Bay action meeting was taking place at the Oaksterdam Student Union after the meeting.

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.