The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Jo Ann Davidson. Commissioners McKinley Brown, Martin Hoke, Peter Silverman, Ranjan Manoranjan, John Steinhauser and June Taylor were in attendance. The minutes of the June 1, 2011 meeting were approved.

Chairman Davidson welcomed two guests from Hollywood Casino in Toledo—Richard St. Jean, the General Manager, and Mike Galle, the Assistant General Manager. Both spoke briefly to the Commission and provided information on their background prior to coming to Ohio.

Representatives from the Attorney General’s office reviewed four proposed Rules before the Commission regarding: 1) General Provisions, 2) Organization and Operation, 3) Insurance, and 4) Security and Surveillance System. While the Insurance Rule remained unchanged from the previous review, the other three Rules had undergone some changes from the previous review. It was reported that Spectrum Gaming Group had reviewed the Rules and changes that were suggested by Spectrum Gaming Group were included in those outlined by Brian Johnson and Sam Kirk of the Attorney General’s staff. Paul Nick, Director of the Ohio Ethics Commission, suggested changes to the Rule on Organization and Operation. After review and acceptance of the suggested changes, Commissioner Hoke moved the adoption of Resolution 2011-4 to approve all four Rules. Commissioner Manoranjan seconded the motion and it was approved. Chairman Davidson thanked the Attorney General’s staff and Director Nick for their hard work on the Rules.

Sam Kirk from the Attorney General’s office reviewed the proposed Minimum Surveillance Standards for Casino Operators, Management Companies or Holding Companies which is the companion piece to the Security and Surveillance System Rule. He indicated that the draft contains commonly-used standards that are not overly burdensome, details specific requirements and allows flexibility in granting a variance if the Commission approves. Ohio’s Standards require the use of color cameras since the cost of this equipment has dropped considerably and it could be useful for security purposes. The Standards will be reviewed to be certain minimum retention times of recording material are aligned, require a separate server for off site storage of back up data and add more precise language concerning the definition of Surveillance Manager and electronic or paper storage. It was noted that the Standards are minimum industry standards and casinos may choose to go beyond what is required. The purpose of the Standards is to ensure collecting the appropriate taxes and ensure honesty in the industry as well as make certain law enforcement needs are met. There will be an opportunity for review and input of the Standards by the industry as well as Spectrum Gaming Group.

Michael Rzymek from the Attorney General’s office provided a status report on skilled gaming in Ohio. The Commission will be responsible for skilled gaming enforcement beginning July 1,
2011. His presentation included a review of the types of games in question, internet cafes, legislative history, definitions, enforcement difficulties and House Bill 195 provisions. The Commission discussed its authority on this issue and whether or not they should be proactive in the development of the pending legislation. Former State Representative Todd Book commented that the legislative intent of House Bill 519 was for the Commission to oversee skilled gaming issues as they developed. Chairman Davidson indicated that some local communities have begun licensing skilled games and some have banned the internet cafes. Companies such as Chuck E. Cheese and Dave and Buster’s have expressed concern on how their operations might be affected by House Bill 195.

Noah Browning from the Office of Budget and Management presented preliminary documents on the Commission’s budget. Commissioners were asked to review the materials and submit questions at the next meeting. Chairman Davidson indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Lottery Commission relating to the Commission’s requested services from Spectrum Gaming Group. Issues such as memberships to casino gaming organizations, travel, and expense policy/payment need to be reviewed as they relate to the budget.

Susan Choe from the Attorney General’s office reviewed a draft of the Ohio Casino Control Commission Code of Conduct. It was the intention that the Code of Conduct be adopted at the next Commission meeting. However, only part of the Code was reviewed due to time restraints so final consideration of the Code will be delayed until full review occurs. Paul Nick, Director of the Ohio Ethics Commission, has reviewed the document and will make additional suggestions to address issues raised by Commission members. Commissioners asked that clarification be made concerning conflict of interest, requirement that a commission member physically leave the room in the recusal section, definition of “any other amusement or activity”, and outside employment. Director Nick reminded the Commission that advisory opinions could be requested from the Ohio Ethics Commission. Chairman Davidson indicated the Commission would request an opinion to clarify the prohibition in House Bill 519 on member’s participation in “any other amusement or activity at a casino in this state or at an affiliate gaming facility of a licensed casino operator wherever located.”

John Williams updated the Commission members on what has been accomplished in establishing the Casino Control Commission office. Chairman Davidson indicated that Spectrum Gaming Group is working on four projects for the Commission—timeline, rule and application review, law enforcement issues and central service analysis. She indicated she hopes the timeline will be available for review at the July 6 meeting of the Commission.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting “aye” and the Commission went into Executive Session to discuss an employment issue. After the Executive Session was adjourned, the Commission reconvened.

The Commission meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.