

MINUTES

South Carolina Athletic Commission

3:00 P.M., November 21, 2002

Board Meeting

Courtyard by Marriott

1000 Commons Boulevard

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Robert Williams, Chairman, of Cayce, called the regular meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission to order at 3:00 p.m. Other members participating during the meeting included: George Cox, Vice Chairman, of Myrtle Beach; Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; Clyde Jones, of Camden; Paul Kennemore, of Greenwood; Lynda Leventis-Wells, of Greenville; and John "Robbie" Robertson, of Columbia.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Larry Hall, Investigator; and Jimmy Knotts, Investigator.

Members of the public attending the meeting included Bobby Mitchell.

Mr. Williams announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Athletic Commission office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building in Columbia, South Carolina, the Courtyard by Marriott in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. He noted that a quorum was present.

Introduction of Commission Members

The commission members introduced themselves.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Bradley delivered the invocation.

Approval of September 16, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cox made the following changes to the September 16, 2002 minutes:

Page 2, item three - change 'services' to 'served' on the first line

Page 2, item three, last line - "were not at the event and have had no knowledge"

Page 3, item 2, (Benji Singleton) second sentence should read "He is the most experienced fighter in the state." In the last line of the motion, change to " The motion did not pass since this motion must be unanimous."

Page 3, Cheryl Nance, second line, change "his" to "her".

Page 3, last motion, "Ms. Wells moved the Commission to reopen the Singleton age

waiver matter since she had previously voted in the negative."

Page 4, second paragraph - Mr. Cox moved to..."

Page 4, Obtaining Promoter License for "The Plex", Charleston, SC - F.Y.I., fourth line - should read "He went on to say the letter, if interpreted by a lay person, might imply that The Plex is the promoter by the way the events are advertised.

Page 5, last paragraph - "Mr. Kennemore agrees with Mr. Robertson that all of the fights on the card."

MOTION

Mr. Cox moved the minutes be approved as amended. Ms. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks - Robert Williams

Mr. Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting. He further stated several events have taken place since the last meeting and all of the events have gone well. He went on to say a professional boxing event is scheduled for December 12, 2002 at the Township Auditorium. He indicated that Andrew Stokes is the promoter. He also said that there is an event at the House of Blues in North Myrtle Beach.

Administrator's Remarks - Randall Bryant

Mr. Bryant stated that nothing has changed in the Stephan Johnson litigation since the last meeting. He further stated staff is still waiting to see how the litigation would go.

Mr. Bryant stated staff has served a Cease and Desist Order on a wrestling promoter who has chosen to never obtain the proper wrestling permits. He further stated Mr. Jimmy Knotts, Mr. Larry Hall and Mr. Raymond Lee testified before Administrative Law Judge Ralph Anderson in this matter. He went on to say staff is waiting on Judge Anderson's decision on this matter. He continued by saying the statute regarding the commission's jurisdiction regarding "combative sports" is an issue and that Judge Anderson questioned whether or not wrestling was a true combative sport or a choreographed exhibition.

Mr. Bryant stated staff has attempted on several occasions to serve Sugar Ray Leonard, and his corporation Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing, with a Cease and Desist Order regarding the contractual problem in Myrtle Beach in June 2002. He went on to say the order essentially accuses Sugar Ray Leonard and the promoters of practicing as a promoter in South Carolina. He indicated Mr. Leonard is running from the service of the order. He noted that staff has spoken with the New York Athletic Commission and asked them to serve the order, however, New York has refused to serve the order. He said that staff has also contacted the Oklahoma Athletic Commission in regard to serving the order, however, Oklahoma has also refused to serve the order. He indicated the Oklahoma fight was the last fight he would be having in the United States this year. He stated staff has contacted Mr. Leonard's corporation and attempted to serve the cease and desist order that way. He said that the corporation alleges that SRL Boxing does not fall under their jurisdiction. He continued by saying he believes staff now has a way to serve the order. He went on to say the Nelson, Mullins and Scarborough Law Firm, who is representing Sugar Ray Leonard, has contacted him regarding the cease and desist order. He indicated

that once the cease and desist order has been served the Association of Boxing Commissions has indicated it would list that order on the national website. He hopes that the commission's sister states would honor the cease and desist order.

Mr. Bryant stated the commission has introduced legislation to reformat the practice act for the past two years.

Mr. Robertson presented the members with an e-mail that was received by individuals on the ABC email distribution list. He went on to say ABC President Lueckenhoff indicates in the email that his emails are private and are not for public information. He further stated that Mr. Lueckenhoff implies that some individual(s) are not treating these e-mails as such. He said that he feels the Association of Boxing Commissions is more public than the South Carolina Athletic Commission, which has the Freedom of Information Act making all records public. He noted that if that continues he would deprive the commission of knowing about what is going on in the ABC. He asked that the commission take the position that ABC should apprise this commission of what it is doing.

A discussion regarding this matter ensued.

A discussion regard the cease and desist order against Sugar Ray Leonard ensued.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the November 21, 2002 meeting.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business discussed during the November 21, 2002 meeting.

New Business

Proposed Legislation

Mr. Bryant stated the South Carolina Athletic Commission received a lot of media attention regarding Stephan Johnson's death in New Jersey approximately three years ago. He further stated staff received approximately 50-75 media calls a day for a week regarding this issue. He went on to say the agency's attorneys and managers met and determined the agency's and the commission's the best avenue to take would be to pursue changing the statute and regulations to be one of the strongest commissions regarding its requirements in the nation. He noted that it worked and the agency has not heard a lot from the media in the time since this death occurred.

Mr. Bryant stated that during the time Mr. Johnson's death occurred individuals were involved that were not intimately familiar with boxing and the commission's program. He went on to say he was not comfortable with the legislation that was presented during the previous two years. He further stated he has spoken with Mr. Williams and Mr. Robertson and he has gone through the practice act and the proposed legislation and made some

recommendations. He continued by saying the previous proposed legislation was so restrictive it would have shut boxing down in South Carolina.

Mr. Bryant briefed the board on the proposed changes. The changes included:

- Increasing the commission's membership by one, to include a physician
- Removing the requirement for a notary public signing the application
- Removing the requirement that the application be submitted to the commission fifteen days prior to the event
- Removing the exception of licenses for boxers and kick boxers
- Submitting medicals tests completed one year prior to the scheduled event
- Submitting evidence of medical, hospitalization, and life insurance in the sum of \$10,000 that covers every contestant
- Removing technical knockout involving the head, excluding a cut to the head and requiring medical exams including, but not limited to a CT scan, EEG, EKG, an ophthalmologic and other medical exams.

The board made suggestions and changes to the submittal of medical tests one year prior to the scheduled event.

Mr. Kennemore noted that the eight ounces is the smallest boxing gloves made. He also suggested that female boxers be required to box with no less than ten ounce gloves. He also suggested that the female boxers not be allowed to fight twelve rounds.

The commission suggested adding "or the commission" to Section 40-81-470(A).

MOTION

Mr. Robertson moved the commission submit this proposed bill, as amended today, to the legislature. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Robertson moved the application the commission is using at present would be the boxing application the commission continue with along with the proposed legislation as revised. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Robertson moved the commission establish a Toughman application which is consistent with the laws the commission is currently sending to the legislature. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones and unanimously carried.

Mr. Cox asked Mr. Bryant about the Gwinn matter. Mr. Bryant stated this matter is before the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the November 21, 2002 meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the commission, Mr. Jones moved the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.