

MINUTES

South Carolina Athletic Commission

10:00 A.M., January 24, 2005

Board Meeting

Synergy Business Park

Kingstree Building

110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 108

Columbia, South Carolina

Robert Williams, Chairman, of Cayce, called the meeting of the S.C. Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Other commissioners present included: George Cox, Vice Chairman, of Myrtle Beach; Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; Clyde Jones, of Camden; Lynda Leventis-Wells, of Greenville; and Michael Tyler, of Cayce.

Paul Kennemore, of Greenwood, was granted an excused absence.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Randy Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Larry Hall, Inspector; Connie Huffstetler, Administrative Specialist; and Jimmy Knotts, Inspector.

A member of the public, Steve Argeris attended the meeting.

Meeting Called to Order

Mr. Williams announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Athletic Commission office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 108 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Bradley delivered the invocation.

Approval of June 25, 2003 and July 21, 2004 Meeting Minutes

MOTION

Ms. Leventis-Wells moved the commission approve the minutes of the June 25, 2003 meeting. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Since there was not a quorum for the July 21, 2004 meeting, those minutes needed no approval.

Chairman's Remarks - Robert Williams

Mr. Williams welcomed all of the commissioners to the meeting. He introduced Michael Tyler, who is a new commissioner.

Mr. Tyler gave the commission a brief background.

Mr. Williams stated two events have been held recently. He further stated there were a couple of mistakes in one of the events, however, those mistakes were corrected and the event was held.

Administrator's Remarks - Randall Bryant

Mr. Bryant welcomed Mr. Tyler to the commission and introduced staff.

Mr. Bryant stated he had recently spoken with Mr. Kennemore who indicated he has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. He indicated Mr. Kennemore had asked that Mr. Bradley handle his proxy in any votes.

Mr. Bryant stated several events had been held recently and that a statistical report would be given shortly.

Mr. Bryant stated Senator John McCain is a strong proponent for a national boxing commission and has been attempting to establish such a commission through Congress. He noted that this effort has been unsuccessful to date.

Mr. Bryant stated he had been subpoenaed in a federal court case involving Bobby Mitchell in Las Vegas in November 2004. He further stated that in charges filed by the US Attorney Mr. Mitchell was convicted for bribery and fixing fights at the MGM Hotel. He indicated he, as well other state commission administrators, were subpoenaed as defense witnesses and were asked regarding evidence regarding fight fixing. He noted that Mr. Mitchell has relinquished his license, which would have become null and void effective December 31, 2005. He went on to say Mr. Mitchell is set for sentencing in early February 2005. He continued by saying Robert Middleman plead guilty to charges, however, he was not licensed in South Carolina. He said that staff would be obtaining a transcript of the proceedings to determine whether or not any of the other participants in the trial should face disciplinary action in South Carolina.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There were no advisory opinions or legislative update given during the January 24, 2005 meeting.

Ratification of Mail Ballot

Approval of Paul Marinaccio as an Over Age Fighter (Approved in August 2004)

The commission did not handle this matter during this meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Cox stated approximately one year ago the commission had discussed the examination for referees and judges. He had requested a copy of the examination,

however, had not received it. He asked Mr. Bryant to provide him a copy of this examination. Mr. Bryant replied he would provide Mr. Cox a copy and indicated the examination is patterned after the Nevada examination.

Ms. Leventis-Wells asked the commission if Mr. Mitchell was instrumental in promoting events in the Charleston and Myrtle Beach areas, and, if so, what would happen now. Mr. Williams stated that Mr. Jim Kelly, of North Carolina, would be attempting to keep those fights going. She questioned the commission if Mr. Kelly was associated with Mr. Mitchell. She stated she would hate for negative publicity to come to the commission should something happen with Mr. Kelly. She further stated she hopes the commission would maintain everything would be in good standing with Mr. Kelly. Mr. Williams stated the commission would be following Mr. Kelly closely.

Mr. Bryant stated Mr. Kelly has done a good job with the events he has promoted in Charleston.

New Business

Statistical Report - Larry Hall, Jimmy Knotts

Mr. Hall briefed the commission on the number of licenses and permits issued in 2004.

Mr. Hall stated there have been some problems with an unlicensed promoter attempting to hold wrestling events in the upstate. He noted Ms. Leventis-Wells has been keeping staff abreast of when the events were supposed to take place.

Upcoming Athletic Events

Mr. Hall stated Mr. Kelly would be holding an event at The Plex in Charleston on Thursday, January 27, 2005.

Mr. Hall stated staff has received information that an event is scheduled to take place at a facility on Garner's Ferry Road in Columbia on Saturday, January 29, 2005. He further stated staff has not received an application for the event to be permitted. He indicated staff would be delivering a cease and desist order to that facility.

Mr. Hall stated staff has also received information that a gym located on Fontaine Road in Columbia has been holding off street boxing type events. He indicated the manger/owner is supposedly allowing individuals to join a gym and allowing the individuals to box and charging admission. He noted a cease and desist order would be issued to that facility as well.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Andrew Stokes.

Mr. Hall stated staff has received information that a five night Tough Man event in Myrtle Beach during May 2005. He further stated a facility is currently reviewing a contract submitted by Mr. Kelly.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the January 24, 2005 meeting.

Executive Session

The commission entered executive session to discuss the Stefan Johnson matter.

Return to Public Session

MOTION

Mr. Cox made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leventis-Wells, that in this calendar year, 2005, by June 30th of this year, one of the two assigned referees must be ABC certified and two of the three assigned judges be ABC certified and that beginning January 1, 2006 all officials must be ABC certified as judges or referees. Ms. Leventis-Wells seconded, carried. Mr. Bryant noted that ABC certification programs would be held in July 2005 in Charleston and previously in Charlotte, North Carolina. He noted that this program is offered free or for a nominal fee. He indicated all judges and referees would be notified, in writing, of this action. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

Chairman

Mr. Bradley moved the Commission maintain the officers as is for the next year. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leventis-Wells and unanimously carried. Ms. Leventis-Wells asked that the Commissioners be updated with a new list of members.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission at this time, Mr. Cox moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The January 24, 2005 meeting of the SC Athletic Commission adjourned at 11:20 a.m.