

MINUTES

Board Meeting

South Carolina Athletic Commission

10:00 A.M., January 7, 2002

Synergy Business Park

110 Centerview Drive, Conference Room 108

Columbia, South Carolina

Mr. John R. Robertson, Chairman, of Irmo, called the regular meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Other commission members participating in the meeting included: Mr. Paul Kennemore, Vice Chairman, of Greenwood; Mr. Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; Mr. George Cox, of Myrtle Beach; and Mr. Clyde Jones, of Camden.

Ms. Lynda Leventis-Wells was absent from the meeting.

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Mr. Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Ms. Sharon Dantzler, Deputy General Counsel, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Ms. Sandra Dickert, Administrative Assistant; Mr. Larry Hall, Investigator; and Mr. Jimmy Knotts, Investigator.

Members of the audience included Jerry Bragg, Rhonda Bragg, James Coleman, David Cody, Judy Crain, Lewis Crain, Marshall Fullbright, Mitchell Goud, James Gwinn, Paul Hellams, Jason Hutto, Robert Keller, James Lee, Wanda McCulley, Bobby Mitchell, and Andrew Stokes.

Mr. Robertson announced the meeting was being held in accordance with Section 30-4-80 of the S. C. Freedom of Information Act by notice mailed to The State Newspaper, Associated Press, WIS-TV and all other requesting persons, organizations, or news media. In addition, notice was posted on the bulletin boards at the two main entrances of the Kingtree Building.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mr. Bradley delivered the invocation.

Approval of October 9, 2001 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Cox briefly discussed a sentence in the last paragraph on page two. Appropriate wording was found.

Motion

Mr. Cox moved the commission approve the minutes of the October 9, 2001 meeting. Mr.

Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Robertson welcomed all members of the audience present for the meeting. He stated the promoters were asked to attend the meeting so the commission could make them aware of changes that the commission has made.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Bryant stated the agenda includes the possible setting of a blanket fee for wrestling events. He further stated the wrestling industry has previously had the option of having a blanket permit fee for multiple events. He noted that previously the fee had been set at \$1,000. He stated the commission must set the stipulations surrounding a blanket permit or the option of not having a blanket permit fee.

Mr. Bryant stated that there are several boxing events scheduled for this month. He further stated one event is scheduled for January 13 in Myrtle Beach and two events are scheduled for January 31, one in Columbia and one in Charleston.

Advisory Opinions, If Needed, Office of General Counsel

There were no advisory opinions given during the January 7, 2002 meeting.

Legislative Update, If Needed, Legislative Liaison Office

There was no legislative update given during the January 7, 2002 meeting.

Action Items

Old Business

New Business

Discussion with Promoters

Mr. Robertson stated any promoter who uses an unlicensed individual in an event would be fined \$1,000.00. He further stated that he has received a number of complaints from legislators regarding the commission being lenient in issuing fines.

Mr. Bryant stated all wrestler applications must include physical examination forms, which must be completed by a licensed physician. He further stated that staff has noticed prior medical examination forms that have been completed by chiropractors, nurses, and veterinarians.

Mr. Robertson briefly discussed the 'backyard wrestling' events.

Mr. Bryant presented the members with a statistical report regarding the wrestling events held during 2001. (This report is attached as Addendum A.)

A few of the promoters discussed: (1) the blanket fee and urged the commission to keep the fee as it is, (2) revising the wrestling license applications, (3) the commission

consider an occupancy fee, (4) 'backyard wrestling' events, (5) the commission's request to mail videos of each event.

Mr. Robertson asked the promoters to inform the commission of any unsanctioned events.

Mr. Robertson asked the promoters to discuss forming an advisory board of five members, which would provide the commission with information. He further stated that the commission would fight any legislation introduced to remove wrestling from the Athletic Commission until a proper regulatory board is established. He asked Mr. Bragg to submit five names for a regulatory board to him within thirty days.

Mr. Robertson stated he doesn't want to return to the \$250 fee per event.

It was noted during the meeting that a \$25 licensing fee would cover all wrestling categories (i.e., wrestler, promoter, manager, etc.).

Mr. Bryant stated staff would notify the promoters, in writing, of the fee schedule.

Recess

The commission took a fifteen-minute break at 11:25 a.m.

Return to Public Session

The commission returned to public session at 11:40 a.m.

The board was presented a letter, for their information, from Stewart, Estes & Donnell regarding matter involving Owen Beck and Vinroy Barrett. (This article is attached as Addendum B.)

The board was presented an article from the St. Louis Today concerning a jury award to an injured boxer. (This article is attached as Addendum C.)

Mr. Bobby Mitchell stated he would like for the commission to consider a blanket fee for boxing as well as wrestling. He indicated he has two events coming up later this month, the first event is scheduled for January 13th and the second event is scheduled for January 31st.

Mr. Robertson stated the commission staff would not be running the promoters down on any matters. He noted that all information must be received on time and weigh-ins must be held on time.

Mr. Robertson stated Mr. Stokes would also be holding an event on January 31st. He further stated he has asked Mr. Stokes to change his event scheduled for January 31st, as the commission cannot handle two events in one night. He did note that if Mr. Stokes cannot change his event he would ask a commission member to attend his event.

OTSB Guidelines

Mr. Robertson discussed the OTSB versus the professional boxing events.

Mr. Bradley stated the commission should attempt to get OTSB reinstated back into South Carolina. He thinks the commission should set requirements for the Tough Man participation.

Mr. Mitchell stated he believes OTSB should have its own regulations.

Executive Session

Mr. Williams moved the commission enter executive session to discuss disciplinary issues. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

Mr. Robertson noted for the record that no actions were taken during the time the commission was in executive session.

Annual Fee for Wrestling Events

Motion

Mr. Cox moved a blanket permit fee be set for events in this calendar year 2002; that the state charge \$250 per event or for an unlimited number of events the amount of \$1,500 made payable in full by February 1, 2002 or, in the alternative, in two increments of \$750 each on February 1, 2002 and July 1, 2002. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Cox amended the motion to include the fee schedule is subject to review by the agency's administration office. Mr. Jones seconded the amendment, which carried unanimously.

OTSB (Continued)

Mr. Robertson stated the commission would table this matter at this time. He noted that he would meet with Mr. Cox regarding exceptions to propose to the legislature.

Mr. Mitchell asked that he be added to the mailing list for the agendas. Mr. Bryant informed Mr. Mitchell that he should send self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the office to be included on the mailing list.

Mr. Mitchell stated he has been reading the minutes from previous meetings and asked that the commission members address the required blood work for Tough Man participants. Mr. Robertson stated an application has been adopted and that the blood work will stand as is.

Promoter/referee Marshall Fullbright proposed the following weight classes for Toughman:

130 - 158

159 - 182

183 - 212

212+

2002 Meeting Dates

The commission set the two following dates for 2002 commission meetings:

Monday, May 13, 2002

Monday, October 14, 2002

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the January 7, 2002 meeting.

Adjournment

Motion

There being no further business to be brought before the commission at this time, Mr. Williams moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox and unanimously carried. The January 7, 2002 meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission adjourned at 1:33 p. m.

The next meeting of the S. C. Athletic Commission is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2002.