

MINUTES

S. C. Athletic Commission

July 31, 2000

The Kingstree Building, Room 108

Columbia, South Carolina

Commissioner John 'Robbie' Robertson, Chairman, of Irmo, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 31, 2000. Other commissioners participating during the meeting included: Mr. Paul Kennemore, Jr., Vice-Chairman, of Greenwood; Mr. Robert Williams, of West Columbia; Mr. Luther Bradley, of Hemingway; Mr. Clyde Jones, of Camden; Mr. George Cox, of Myrtle Beach; and Ms. Lynda Leventis-Wells, of Greenville.

Members of the staff participating during the meeting included: Mr. Randall Bryant, Assistant Deputy Director; Mr. Blaine Mosher, Administrative Assistant; Ms. Sharon Dantzler, Staff Attorney, LLR-Office of General Counsel; Mr. Jim Knight, Deputy Director, Office of Communications & Governmental Affairs; and Ms. Janet Scott, Administrative Coordinator.

Members from the public attending the meeting included Mr. Franklin Stallings.

Mr. Robertson announced the meeting was being held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act [§ 30-4-80 (e)] 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 located at both of the main entrances of the Kingstree Building where the Board office is located.

Invocation

Mr. Bradley gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Remarks

Mr. Robertson welcomed the new members. He asked the new members to introduce themselves and to give a brief background.

The commissioners thanked Mr. Franklin Stallings for his dedication and time given to the commission and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Williams moved the commission approve the minutes from the March 13, 2000 meeting. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams moved the commission approve the minutes from the March 28, 2000 meeting. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams moved the commission the minutes from the May 22, 2000 meeting. Mr. Bradley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Administrator's Remarks

Mr. Bryant welcomed the new members to the commission. He apprised the new members of the agency's responsibilities; the agency's web page, the boxing commission, staff member responsibilities and their relationship with the commission, and legislation. He introduced staff to the members. He also explained the application process and the complaint and disciplinary processes.

Recess

Mr. Bradley moved the commission take a ten-minute recess. Mr. Cox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Regular Session

Discussion Items

Mr. Robertson apprised the commission of the decisions made during the annual meeting of the National Association of Boxing Commission.

Mr. Robertson stated he does not want to use the physician who attended the last event in Anderson. He noted that the commission does not have an approved list of physicians and that the commission does not know who will be the ringside physician prior to the event.

Mr. Robertson stated it was mentioned at the annual meeting that one professional boxer died following an event.

Mr. Robertson stated he has also learned that should a Fight Fax be needed on a Saturday for a Tough Man event, staff can notify Fight Fax in advance a fight fax can be received up to a certain time on a Saturday. He has already discussed the fees with staff.

Mr. Robertson stated North Carolina has offered the services of being a clearinghouse on Tough Man contests.

Mr. Kennemore made brief remarks regarding the national conference.

Mr. Robertson stated the commission had worked hard on getting legislation through last year. He asked Mr. Bryant to work on getting the proposed legislation ready for pre-filing for the next legislative session. He asked that the commission and the agency work hand in hand on the legislation. He gave the new commission members an update on pay-for-view and regulation of wrestling.

Mr. Bryant gave brief remarks regarding the General Assembly's mandate that each board and commission must be self-supportive. The Athletic Commission brings in \$21,000 in licensing fees and \$30,000 total fees. However, it takes approximately \$100,000 to run the smallest program in the agency. He noted that pay-for view would be an alternative way to fund the commission. He said if an event is produced in South Carolina and shown worldwide, the commission could receive up to ten percent of the gross revenue from the pay-for-view venue. He further stated if a big event is shown in a sports bar, the commission could receive two percent of the gross revenue. He stated those avenues are being sought. He said from what the General Assembly has mandated its number of licensees and events a professional boxing license would be approximately \$100 and an

event permit rising from \$50 to \$250.

Further discussion in the matter ensued.

Proposed Training Session for New Members

Mr. Robertson stated that approximately two years he proposed a training session for new members and staff. He went on to say the commission would invite all promoters and every licensee in South Carolina. He noted the promoters and licensees would be notified by certified mail.

Action Items

Billy Mitchem & Danny Wofford – Rescind Suspension

Mr. Robertson stated Mr. Mitchem was invited to attend the meeting; however, he has not shown up. He went on to say Mr. Mitchem is a promoter who wanted to speak to the commission concerning a suspension of two fighters who have been suspended.

Ms. Dantzler stated the commission has offered Mr. Mitchem the opportunity to appear and since he has not, the suspension stands.

Mr. Robertson stated he thought he had worded the suspension letter correctly. However it should be rewritten to delete the wording regarding age, due to a poor performance and records.

Mr. Bryant stated the commission had cited the ECW \$1,000 on May 20, 2000 for unlicensed activities and that a consent order had also been mailed. He noted that the fine has been paid in full.

Mr. Robertson stated a ringside physician was also not available.

Mr. Cox asked if fines are listed as a separate item of income that could be generated for the state. Mr. Bryant stated each commission and board has its own separate fines account. He indicated the reason for the separate account shows that individuals are not being fined to increase the budget. He indicated that the fines money cannot be used.

Ms. Dantzler stated the commission could tack certain costs against the fines; however, by statute the fines go into the general fund.

A discussion concerning the budget ensued.

A discussion on the number of meetings held during the year ensued.

Mr. Cox asked if a fine is paid when a consent order is mailed or when the commission approves the consent order. Mr. Bryant stated the fine is paid upon approval of the consent order, however, EWC had already paid the fine.

A brief discussion was held regarding the medical requirements and insurance policies.

Executive Session

The commission did not enter executive session during this meeting.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made during the July 31, 2000 meeting.

Adjournment

Mr. Williams moved the July 31, 2000 meeting be adjourned. Ms. Leventis-Wells seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.