

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**  
**South Carolina Athletic Commission**  
**Wednesday, November 6, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.**

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Conference Room 202-02  
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Alan Wells, Chair, called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Wells announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Athletic Commission Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, 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.

Commission members present in this meeting included:

Alan Wells, Chair – 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Clyde Jones – 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Pamela Shealy – At-Large Member

Commission members participating via teleconference included:

Ed Lawson – 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
Anthony “Tony” Eubanks – 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
Steven Dean – 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
James Phillips – At-Large Physician

Staff members participating in this meeting included Rod Atkinson, Larry Hall, Wanda Cooke, Diana Williams, Laura Pace, Darra Coleman and Sheridan Spoon, Advice Counsel.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Invocation:**

Chairman Wells provided the Invocation.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Shealy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Absences**

William Boyte – 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District

**MOTION:**

Ms. Shealy made a motion to approve this absence. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2013**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2013 meeting. Ms. Shealy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**Fee Adjustment Proposal – Darra Coleman, Office of Advice Counsel**

Ms. Coleman addressed the Commission to discuss proposed fee adjustments. Ms. Coleman informed the Commission that LLR had conducted a financial analysis of all its Boards and Commissions to determine whether fees charged are sufficient, but not excessive, to cover the operating expenses of the Board. This analysis revealed that fees currently being charged by the Athletic Commission are not adequate for daily operations of the Board. Therefore, a proposed fee increase schedule was presented.

Question and Answer session ensued.

Ms. Shealy raised a concern regarding “commission fees”. What category is this line item listed under and how do these fees affect the bottom line of the budget? Diana Williams indicated that these fees are currently being placed under “miscellaneous” fees.

Ms. Shealy raised a concern regarding the number of temporary employees that we currently employ. There is 1 person listed on the current budget sheet with 100 % of the budget. However, in past reports, it has shown 4 or 5 temporary employees. Staff will identify temporary employees and broken down on the next budget report with names listed.

Chairman Wells raised a concern regarding the number of events held versus the number of completed gate fee forms. Mr. Hall indicated that some promoters have not paid their fees. It was recommended that the Commission staff send certified mail to individuals who have outstanding fees that need to be paid.

Chairman Wells asked that materials be provided to the Commission in advance so they have adequate time to review

Chairman Wells raised a concern regarding the approval of charitable events. Mr. Spoon advised Chairman Wells that this is something that is being reviewed by the Advice Counsel office to comply with the applicable law.

Ms. Coleman advised the Commission that Administrator Atkinson has requested legal advice and the Advice Counsel office is working on a response for Mr. Atkinson regarding this issue.

Chairman Wells and Ms. Shealy presented a letter that Ms. Shealy received from ABC, indicating that South Carolina is co-sponsoring with Georgia, a training seminar for judges and referees. Chairman Wells and Ms. Shealy were concerned that the Commission had no knowledge of this co-sponsorship. Administrator Atkinson advised the Commission that this was the first time he had heard of this as well. Chairman Wells agreed to provide Mr. Atkinson with a copy of the letter so that we can research the issue to determine where it originated.

Discussion returned to the proposed fee increase schedule.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Shealy made a motion to authorize LLR to promulgate regulations to enforce the proposed fee schedule, as amended. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED FEE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Athletic Commission (FY13)</b>	<b>Licenses/Permits</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
<b>MMA</b>			
Amateur MMA Fighter	149	\$25	\$75
Pro MMA Fighter	31	\$25	\$75
Promoter MMA	9	\$100	\$150
Matchmaker MMA	6	\$100	\$130
Referee MMA	3	\$50	\$75
Seconds MMA	232	\$50	\$100
Timekeeper MMA	4	\$25	\$50
Trainer MMA	1	\$100	\$100
Announcer MMA	4	\$25	\$75
Promoter Rep MMA	0	\$25	\$150
Manager MMA	1	\$100	\$100
Judge MMA	11	\$50	\$75
<b>BOXING</b>			
Professional Boxer	39	\$10	\$75
Promoter Boxing	2	\$50	\$150
Matchmaker Boxing	0	\$20	\$130
Seconds Boxing	46	\$10	\$100
Trainer Boxing	4	\$10	\$100
Manager Boxing	2	\$20	\$100
Referee Boxing /OTSB	4	\$10	\$75
Timekeeper Boxing/OTSB	4	\$10	\$50
Judge Boxing/OTSB	1	\$10	\$75
Announcer Box/OTSB	3	\$10	\$75
Promoter Rep	0	----	\$150

**OFF THE STREET BOXING (OTSB)**

Off the Street Boxer	44	\$10	\$75
Promoter OTSB	2	\$50	\$150

**WRESTLING:**

Pro Wrestler	462	\$10	\$75
Promoter Wrestling	27	\$50	\$150
Referee Pro Wrestling	8	\$10	\$75
Announcer Wrestling	19	\$10	\$75
Promoter Rep	0	-----	\$ 150

**KICKBOXING:**

Kick Boxer	0	\$10	\$75
Promoter	0	\$50	\$150
Judge	0	\$10	\$75
Referee	0	\$10	\$75
Manager	0	420	\$100
Trainer	0	\$10	\$100
Second	0	\$10	\$100
Timekeeper	0	\$10	\$50
Announcer	0	\$10	\$75
Matchmaker	0	\$20	\$130
Promoter Rep	0	-----	\$150

**PERMITS:**

MMA Permit	14	\$250	\$300
Wrestling Permit	260	\$50	\$150
Boxing Permit	5	\$50	\$150
OTSB Permit	3	\$50	\$150
Kickboxing Permit	0	\$50	\$150

Mr. Lawson left the discussion at 6:20 p.m., however, a quorum was maintained.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS:**

Mr. Atkinson advised the Commission that Glenn Frick has been transferred to the Office of Inspections. This transfer leaves a vacancy as Commission Representative. Larry Hall is also a named representative, however, Mr. Atkinson stressed the need for a back-up person and recommended that the Commission appoint Diana Williams as the second representative. Chairman Wells questioned whether or not the statute allows more than one. It was determined that the Statute does allow for more than one person and that Diana Williams will be named as the second Commission Representative.

Mr. Atkinson asked for guidance from the Commission on approval of charitable events. What is necessary to approve a request to hold a “charity” event and to waive fees for same? The Commission only meets quarterly; therefore, should we call a special meeting to get a charitable event approved? What type of verification is the promoter required to provide? Discussion ensued.

**MOTION:**

Ms. Shealy made a motion that a Commission designee review and approve all applications for charitable events. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Atkinson requested that the Commission members have an open dialogue with the staff on this matter, and other areas of concern, so that corrections can be made, when necessary, to streamline processes and avoid holding up events.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Gate fees and ticket verifications - Current procedure may need some adjustments to make sure the system we have in place is the most efficient. It was noted that a ticket numbering system is necessary so that tickets that are not sold can be returned. Discussion ensued.
- b) Budget Review – There was no further discussion on the budget.
- c) Regulation Review – The Task Force (Ms. Shealy, Mr. Jones and Mr. Wells) will continue to review regulations and recommend changes as necessary. All changes must be presented to the full Commission for approval prior to implementation.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:**

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dean seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for February 4, 2014.