

## **MINUTES**

### **South Carolina Athletic Commission**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2014, at 10:00 a.m.**

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Conference Room 105

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

#### **Meeting Called to Order:**

Vice-Chair Shealy called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Shealy 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.

#### **Introduction of Board Members:**

Commission members present in this meeting included:

Anthony "Tony" Eubanks – 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District  
Steven Dean – 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Pamela Shealy – At-Large Member  
Hamp Kennemore – 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (new member)  
Will McCullough – 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District (new member)

Staff members participating during the meeting included Rod Atkinson, Larry Hall, Diana Williams, Wanda Cooke, Tracey Perlman, Yolanda Rodgers and Sara McCartha, Advice Counsel.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was recited by all present.

**INVOCATION** was offered by Commissioner Eubanks.

#### **Approval of Agenda:**

##### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Approval/Disapproval of Commission Member Absences**

James Phillips – At-Large Physician  
Ed Lawson – 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
Clyde Jones – 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

##### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to approve these absences. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes of the February 4, 2014 meeting**

#### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Vice-Chair Shealy welcomed everyone and thanked the staff for their hard work. She announced that we have two new members on the Commission. Mr. Hamp Kennemore, from Spartanburg, SC, represents the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and Mr. Will McCullough, from Beaufort, SC, represents the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District.

#### **Administrator's Remarks:**

- a. The budget report for March 2014 was reviewed. Discussion ensued.
- b. There was no Investigative Review Committee report for this month. Mr. Atkinson explained, for the benefit of new members, the role of the IRC.
- c. Report from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement was distributed for review.
- d. Mr. Atkinson announced that the Association of Boxing Commissions Convention will be held on July 26 – 30, 2014, in Clearwater, FL. Discussion followed regarding who would attend. Mr. Eubanks expressed interest in attending this Conference.

#### **MOTION:**

Ms. Shealy made a motion to approve two Commissioners and one staff member to attend this Conference. Dr. Dean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- e. Mr. Atkinson announced that the Combative Sports Medical Symposium will be held in Trenton, New Jersey on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. This information will be distributed to the commissioners who are absent today.

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Eubanks made a motion to approve one Commissioner or one staff member to attend the Combative Sports Medical Symposium. Dr. Dean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Atkinson informed the Commission that we are in need to two (2) alternate commission representatives. There are currently only 2 commission representatives. (Hall and Williams) There are occasion when there are more than 2 events scheduled at the same time, making it impossible for there to be a representative at each event. Mr. Lanny Ross and Mr. Phillip Morris will be named as alternate commission representatives. Mr. Ross and Mr. Morris are both familiar with the laws and procedures at the events of the Athletic Commission. They know what is expected of the fighters and promoters.
- g. Diana Williams have a report of her recent visits to the Athletic Commission offices in the states of Nevada, Arizona, North Carolina and Georgia.

## **Disciplinary Hearing**

### ***Travis Childers***

The Commission held a Disciplinary Hearing regarding Mr. Travis Childers. Mr. Childers did not appear before the Commission and was not represented by legal counsel. Ms. Tracey Perlman, Office of Disciplinary Counsel, presented the case to the Commission and discussion ensued.

#### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the disposition of this case and receive legal advice. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to revoke Mr. Childers' license (ABB.6677), and impose a civil penalty of \$2000. Mr. Childers will also be prohibited from applying for a license with the South Carolina Athletic Commission until December 31, 2016. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

*(This proceeding was recorded by a court report in order to produce a verbatim transcript if requested in accordance with the law.)*

## **LUNCH RECESS**

### **New Business**

#### **a. Election of Officers**

Election of Officers was held for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

#### **MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to elect Pam Shealy as Chair. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Kennemore made a motion to elect Tony Eubanks as Vice-Chair. Dr. Dean seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- b. Ms. Shealy gave an update on the newly formed Community Task Force. The three-fold goals of this task force is:
1. Update Boxing and MMA Regulations
  2. Ensure that they are consistent with the Statutes
  3. Reflect the collective input of all interested parties

The current task force consists of hand selected members including:

Sam King  
Andrew Stokes  
Blake Grice  
Brad Benik  
Mark Mills  
Pam Shealy  
William McCullough  
Diana Williams  
Larry Hall  
Rod Atkinson

We are in need of one more Commission member. The Commission decided to extend this to the absent members of the Commission.

**MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to proceed with the Community Task Force. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- c. The process for approving Overage Fighter Applications was discussed. The current process requires that the applicant appear before the Commission for approval. Sometimes this cannot be arranged prior to the date of the events. It is also costly to call special Commission meetings to approve these applications. It was decided that the Commission will form a Committee, who can review overage applications, to determine whether or not the applicant is physically fit to fight, based on the medical documentation submitted. This option will be explored further by Advice Counsel and will be discussed again at the next meeting.
- d. Discussion was held regarding Muay Thai. This is increasing in popularity and is not currently being regulated by this Commission. Blake Grice, who will be serving on the Community Task Force, is very knowledgeable of Muay Thai, and will be a great resource for the Commission moving forward. Mr. Grice is a referee and trainer who has worked multiple combat sporting events.
- e. David Feldman gave an informal presentation on Bare Knuckle Boxing. Mr. Feldman played a 5 minute video for the Commission's review. The Commission does not currently regulate bare knuckle boxing. Discussion ensued.

- f. A Letter of Appeal of an MMA Bout decision was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Atkinson will reply to the trainer and the fighter to let them know that the current Practice Act and Regulations do not allow the Commission to overturn the decisions of the judges in MMA bouts.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The current Gate Fee verification process was discussed. The Commission and staff needs to start thinking of ways to enforce the collection of gate fees and ensuring promoters are in compliance without implementing processes that are burdensome, requiring additional staff and costs to the Commission. We are currently using an honor system and relying on the promoters to be fair and honest with the number of tickets that are sold. There are currently no audit procedures in place. Processes used in other states are being reviewed.

**MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION:**

Dr. Dean made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for August 5, 2014.