

Minutes

South Carolina Athletic Commission – Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, October 4th, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 108

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Commission members present at this meeting:

Will McCullough – Chairman - District 1

Derek Shoemake – Vice Chair

Edwin M. Estridge – District 2

Pam Shealy – At Large Member

Dr. James Vaught – District 7

Paul Kennemore – District 4

Staff Members present at this meeting included:

Natalye Jackson – Athletic Commission Administrator

Hardwick Stuart – Advice Counsel

Amanda Schlegel – Athletic Commission Administrative Assistant

Ty'Yona Schofield – Real Estate Appraisers Board Administrative Assistant

Meeting Called to Order:

William McCullough, Chair, called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. McCullough announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina 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.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation:

Mr. Estridge delivered the Invocation.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to move the public comments section of the meeting to the first item of new business. This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda:

The motion to approve the updated agenda was made by Mr. Estridge and seconded by Mr. Kennemore. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences:

The motion to approve any absences was made by Mr. Estridge and seconded by Mr. Shoemake. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the submitted minutes for August 31th, 2016 and September 7th, 2016 was made by Mr. Shoemake, seconded by Mr. Kennemore, and carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks:

William McCullough introduced himself to all present as the new Chairman of the Athletic Commission. He described in great detail how board members obtain their appointments.

Administrator's Remarks:

Natalye Jackson updated the board on current licensing and budget matters. Administrator Jackson introduced Amanda Schlegel as the new Administrative Assistant for the Athletic Commission.

Public Comments/New Business**Adrian Henderson:**

Mr. Henderson appeared before the Board to protest the results of his October 1st, 2016 Mixed Martial Arts bout and to request a hearing and/or be added to the next board meeting. Administrator Jackson stated that an age-waiver hearing would be granted with the dual purpose of hearing Mr. Henderson's petition. Discussion ensued with no motions made.

Justin Brown:

Mr. Brown appeared before the Board to introduce the possibility of having Mixed Martial Arts events that only include amateur competitors to fall under the purview of UMMAF instead of LLR. Discussion ensued with no motions made.

Nathan Shook:

Mr. Shook appeared before the Board to introduce the possibility of Bare-Knuckle boxing becoming a regulated event in South Carolina. Discussion ensued with no motions made.

“Smokers” versus Exhibition Events – Lance Adams

Mr. Adams appeared before the Board and answered questions regarding events and exhibitions (“smokers”) held by a gym/promoter. Discussion ensued.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to enter executive session to seek legal advice. This motion was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to exit executive session and return to public session. Dr. Vaught seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to include advertised and paid events involving professional kickboxers, professional and amateur mixed martial artists, and professional and amateur boxers fall under the purview of the South Carolina Athletic Commission as licensed events. No retroactive consequences would be issued to those who had already hosted ticketed events. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Tammy Stone:

Ms. Stone participated in the board meeting via teleconference presenting questions regarding the fight card pre-approval practice and potential challenges for matchmakers. Discussion ensued with no motions made.

David Arvelo:

Mr. Arvelo participated in the board meeting via teleconference presenting questions in bout approval practices. Discussion ensued with no motion made.

Television Tax – Dylan Sitterle

Mr. Sitterle presented information to the board regarding the rate South Carolina charges for televised licensed events versus those of several other states. Mr. Sitterle presented the possibility of changing the South Carolina television tax to the rate of 3% of the first million dollars of gross pay-per-view sales, and 1% of the second million dollars of pay-per-view sales, with a cap of \$50,000. Discussion ensued.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to approve a television tax to the rate of 3% of the first million dollars of gross pay-per-view sales, and 1% of the second million dollars of gross pay-per-view sales, with a cap of \$50,000. Dr. Vaught approved the motion which carried unanimously.

Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to allow promoters of mixed martial arts events to use South Carolina regulations or updated ABC rules, with the Commission having ultimate authority. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and passed unanimously.

Age Waiver Hearing: Karen Thompson

The board reviewed the application and medical documents for Ms. Thompson.

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to approve the age restriction waiver regarding Ms. Thompson for the 2017 licensure period. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to enter executive session. Mr. Kennemore seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion:

Dr. Vaught made the motion to exit executive session and return to public session. Mr. Estridge seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to only require the pre-fight physical for Mixed Martial Arts fighters and Boxers, to amend Athletic Commission forms to reflect this change, and to expand the document for appropriate physician notes. Mr. Estridge seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Approval of 2017 Meeting Dates

Mr. Kennemore made the motion to approve the 2017 board meeting dates of: February 7th, May 2nd, August 1st, and October 3rd. The motion was seconded by Mr. Estridge and carried unanimously

Adjournment:

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to adjourn the board meeting which was seconded by Mr. Kennemore and passed unanimously.

The next South Carolina Athletic Commission quarterly meeting is February 7th, 2017.