

Minutes

South Carolina Athletic Commission – Quarterly Meeting

Tuesday, August 9th, 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:

Pamela Shealy – Chair

William McCullough – Vice Chair

Derek Shoemake – District 5

Edwin M. Estridge – District 2

Dr. James Vaught – District 7

Staff Members present at this meeting included:

Natalye Jackson – Athletic Commission Administrator

Hardwick Stuart – Advice Counsel

Roderick Atkinson – Real Estate Commission Administrator

Ty'Yona Schofield – Real Estate Appraisers Board Administrative Assistant

Meeting Called to Order:

Vice-Chair William McCullough called the meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission to order at 10:13 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.

Invocation:

Mr. Shoemake delivered the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda:

The motion to approve the updated agenda presented by Ms. Jackson was approved by Mr. Shoemake and seconded by Mr. Estridge. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences:

The motion to approve the absences of Dr. William Phillips, Ms. Pam Shealy, and Mr. Paul Kennemore was made by Mr. Estridge. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemake and carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

The approval of minutes as submitted in the board member packet was put forward by Mr. Estridge, seconded by Mr. Shoemake, and carried unanimously.

Administrator's Remarks:

The Board was informed of the current status of licenses and budget trends. Mr. Roderick Atkinson gave an explanation regarding the Athletic Commission's indirect expenditures. Mr. Andrew Rogers presented regarding the administration of Professional and Occupational Licensing boards at the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Report:

The IRC Report was presented to the board by Mr. Rodney Pigford.

Motion:

The motion to approve the IRC report was made by Dr. Vaught. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shoemake and carried unanimously.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report:

The ODC report was made by Mr. Kyle Tennis. Discussion ensued with no motions made.

Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) Convention– Blake Grice:

Mr. Blake Grice joined the meeting via teleconference to inform the Athletic Commission about the changes the ABC made at their annual convention regarding sport terminology, uniformity in judging, and updated unified rules of Mixed Martial Arts. Adoption of the Unified Rules at MMA was placed on the Agenda for the next Athletic Commission Board Meeting so that board members would be able to view them in their entirety.

Athletic Commission Communication via Social Media:

Mr. Andrew Rogers informed the Board that staff within the Athletic Commission would post multiple times a week to a secure Facebook page regarding topics and events that are germane to the athletic community. Inspector recruitment would also take place via the Commission's social media outlets. Discussion ensued.

New Business:

- 1) **Annual Physical Requirements** – The Board discussed the requirement of annual physicals submitted by Wrestlers, Referees, and female contestants. The Board discussed eliminating the required annual physical for fighters, and allowing them to participate with only a pre-fight physical.
- 2) **Event Attendance** – The Board discussed different methods that could be used to verify event attendance and gate fees.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake introduced the motion to amend the agenda to make item number two under the 'unfinished business' section to item number two under 'new business.' Dr. Vaught seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Event Gate Verification Procedure – Dylan Sitterle:

Mr. Sitterle presented to the Board regarding electronic ticket sales to ensure correct gate fees would be submitted to the Athletic Commission and event attendance could be verified to ensure proper staff coverage. Mr. Sitterle introduced a new gate fee form that could be filled out electronically.

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to utilize the event gate fee form. The motion was seconded by Dr. Vaught and carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to enter executive session to seek legal advice. Dr. Vaught seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Motion:

The motion to exit executive session was made by Mr. Estridge, seconded by Dr. Vaught, and carried unanimously.

Disciplinary Hearing – Damarus Moton, Wrestling Promoter

Mr. Moton was not present for the hearing regarding possible disciplinary action on his record. Mr. Rodney Pigford was sworn in as witness for the State. The hearing was recorded by a verified court reporter should a verbatim transcript be necessary.

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to enter executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Shoemake and carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to exit executive session which was seconded by Dr. Vaught and carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion that the Athletic Commission fine Mr. Moton for two violations, \$1,000.00 for each, for a total of \$2,000.00 before any consideration of license reinstatement. The fine would be due sixty days from Mr. Moton's receipt of the Board order and would require Mr. Moton's appearance before the Board before his license could be re-instated. The motion was seconded by Mr. Estridge and carried unanimously.

Gate Fee Forms – Andrew Stokes:

Mr. Stokes requested a special hearing regarding his previous compliance with Athletic Commission gate fees. Mr. Stokes waived his thirty day notice of hearing and stated he was not represented by any legal counsel. Mr. Stokes was sworn in by the court reporter.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to enter executive session. Dr. Vaught seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to exit executive session, which was seconded by Dr. Vaught and carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion that Mr. Stokes was in compliance of Athletic Commission policies and procedures. This motion was seconded by Dr. Vaught and carried unanimously.

Arena Combat – Casey Oxendine

Mr. Oxendine joined the meeting via teleconference to discuss the approval of Mixed Martial Arts Arena Combat before the board.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to enter executive session to seek legal advice. Mr. Estridge seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to exit executive session which was seconded by Mr. Estridge and carried unanimously.

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to approve Mixed Martial Arts Arena Combat as a licensed event by the Athletic Commission. Mr. Estridge seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Amateur Kickboxing

Ms. Jackson requested a task force meeting regarding the Athletic Commission sanctioning Amateur Kickboxing. Mr. Johnny Davis was placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Commission Elections:

Motion:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to nominate William McCullough as Chairman. This motion was seconded by Mr. Estridge and Dr. Vaught and passed.

Motion:

Mr. Estridge made the motion to nominate Derek Shoemake as the Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Dr. Vaught and passed.

Adjournment:**Motion:**

The motion to adjourn the South Carolina Athletic Commission board meeting was made by Mr. Estridge, seconded by Dr. Vaught, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

The next South Carolina Athletic Commission quarterly meeting is October 4th, 2016.