

Minutes

South Carolina Athletic Commission

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, Conference Room 105

110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Meeting Called to Order:

Pam Shealy, Chair, 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, Kingtree 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 at this meeting included:

Pamela Shealy - Chair - At-Large Member

William McCullough - Vice-Chair - 1st Congressional District

Anthony 'Tony' Eubanks - 3rd Congressional District

Dr. James Phillips - At-Large Physician

Derek Shoemake - 5th Congressional District

Staff members participating during the meeting included: Rod Atkinson, Laura Smith, Interim Administrator; Wanda Cooke, Administrative Assistant; Natalye Jackson, Administrative

Assistant; Diana Williams, Commission Representative; Hardwick Stuart, Office of Advice Council.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Invocation was offered by Commissioner Eubanks

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Atkinson suggested moving item (e) regarding Social Media Options on the agenda under item (g) regarding the ABC Conference of the Administrator's Remarks. Mr. Atkinson also suggested moving item (c) an Event Permitting Hearing for Casey Oxendine above item (a), 2015 Commission Officer Elections under New Business. Additionally, Mr. Atkinson suggested the removal of item (d) Jason M. Rowland under New Business, as he would not be in attendance.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the agenda, as amended. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Excused Absences:

Ms. Shealy noted that the absence of Paul H. Kennemore, 4th Congressional District, was not an excused absence.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to consider Mr. Kennmore's absence unexcused according to the new attendance/absence policy. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of February 3, 2015 meeting:

Ms. Shealy suggested the approval of the minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting with the addition of the word 'not' to line 58.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve the agenda with the suggested change. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Chairman's Remarks - Pam Shealy

Ms. Shealy welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced and welcomed the new member of the Athletic Commission, Mr. Derek Shoemake from Elgin, SC representing the 5th Congressional District. She also expressed regret that Mr. Anthony Eubanks would be leaving the Commission.

She recognized the Task Force for their hard work in changing the Athletic Commission Regulations and she hailed the accomplishments that have been made as a result of their hard work. She also introduced Selena Ruffin, owner of The Desert Boutique, who provided the cakes to celebrate these changes and accomplishments taking place within the Athletic Commission.

Administrator's Remarks: Rod Atkinson

- a. The budget report for March 2015 was reviewed. Discussion ensued.

- b. The report from the Office of Investigations and Enforcement was distributed for review.
- c. Mr. Atkinson gave an update of the legislative changes. He noted that the Regulatory changes have been filed and were moving quickly to final passage through the House and Senate. Additionally he noted that some Statute changes had to be made so that the Rules and Regulations and Statutes were identical.
- d. Mr. Atkinson informed the Commission that a Commission Designee was needed to approve the Medical Examinations for over-age fighters. Discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion that Ms. Shealy will continue to approve fight pairings and Dr. Phillips will review over-age fighter Medicals in lieu of calling special board meetings to approve over-age fighters. If neither Commission member is available for their assigned duties then the Vice-Chair person will perform that duty. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- e. Mr. Atkinson informed the Commission of an addendum to the Promoter Application to include a list highlighting event deadlines and promoter responsibilities. Discussion ensued regarding what constitutes as the last day in regards to holidays and weekends.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made a motion to approve the proposed application changes with the addition of a sentence stating that if the deadline falls on a State holiday or weekend, then the deadline is the next business day by close of business. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

- f. Mr. Atkinson informed the Commission of staff changes. Introducing Natalye Jackson as the new Administrative Assistant for the Athletic Commission and informing the Commission that there are a total of nine (9) part-time inspectors with the possibility of adding two (2) more. Mr. Atkinson stated his intention to move exclusively to the Real-Estate Board and that Laura Smith was the acting Interim Administrator for the Athletic Commission and Real-Estate Appraisers Boards.

- g.** Mr. Atkinson announced that the 2015 ABC Conference would be held in San Diego, California July 25th - July 29th and requested approval for the attendance of two Commissioners and one staff member.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to approve two Commissioners and one staff member to attend the ABC Conference. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- h.** Mr. Atkinson made a suggestion that the Commission engage in social media outlets to stay engaged with the community. This would be completed pending approval from Lesia Kudelka in Public Relations. Ms. Kudelka remarked that the computer is the best medium to communicate with the public and two other boards within the agency have Facebook pages. Community discussion ensued. It was determined that a Facebook page would be set up on a trial basis for the Commission.

New Business

- a. Event Permitting Hearing: *Arena Combat/Casey Oxendine***

The Commission held an event permitting hearing regarding Arena Combat with the CEO of HipShow, Casey Oxendine, to approve Arena Combat under MMA. Blake Grice, head referee in South Carolina and Georgia, joined the meeting via teleconference to provide his input regarding an arena combat event that he

refereed. Discussion ensued regarding the safety of the fighters, rules of the event, number of doctor's and EMT's present and event insurance.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to enter Executive Session to obtain legal advice. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to grant a one time approval for an event permit upon compliance of the following conditions: Removal of Heavyweight and Super Heavyweight weight classes from the events, the presence of three (3) fight doctors, a 3 - 4 hour training session for participating referees, requirement of referees to use football style whistles, the head referee would have a microphone and that South Carolina's Rules and Regulations are adopted as reference. Finally, HipShow has thirty (30) days to submit an application for an event permit.

2015 Commission Officer Elections

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to re-elect Ms. Pam Shealy as Commission Chairman. Mr. Shoemake seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to elect Mr. William McCullough as Vice Chairman. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Age-Waiver Hearings

a. Robert Owen

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Robert Owen, 37 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Boxing events for the duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Owen appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver, discussion ensued.

b. Edward Smith

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Edward Smith, 65 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Boxing events for the duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Smith appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver; Mr. Smith's last fight was in 1991, discussion ensued.

c. Kenneth Myers

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Kenneth Myers, 53 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Boxing events for the duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Myers appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver; Mr. Myers last fight was in 1996, discussion ensued.

d. Lawrence Blackwell

The Commission held a Hearing regarding whether Mr. Lawrence Blackwell, 43 years old, should be granted an age restriction waiver to participate in Boxing events for the

duration of the 2015 licensure period. Mr. Blackwell appeared before the Commission to present his case for an age restriction waiver; Mr. Blackwell has never held a professional boxing license, discussion ensued.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss the disposition of these cases and to receive legal advice. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to return to Open Session. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to grant Mr. Robert Owen an age restriction waiver. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to grant Mr. Edward Smith an age restriction waiver based on testimony, witnesses, videos, the photograph submitted and medical information submitted. Mr. Eubanks seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Mr. Shoemake made the motion to grant Mr. Kenneth Myers an age restriction waiver. Mr. McCullough seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

MOTION:

Dr. Phillips made the motion to grand Mr. Lawrence Blackwell an age restriction waiver. Mr. McCullough 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.)

Mr. Shoemake left the Athletic Commission meeting at 1:20 PM; however, quorum was maintained.

Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comments

Sam King, a licensed Matchmaker, commented on the time and expenses involved in obtaining medical examinations required for licensure, from the prospective of the participants and promoters. Discussion ensued regarding administrative processes and agency protocol which requires all Boards maintain certain standards.

Andrew Stokes, licensed Promoter, suggested amending the process in which a fight card is approved, suggesting that the match-ups be approved and the fight card given a provisional approval pending the receipt of all medicals. In his opinion this would alleviate the stress of unknown suspensions causing the cancelation of scheduled bouts. Discussion ensued.

Adjournment:

MOTION:

Mr. McCullough made the motion to adjourn. Dr. Phillips seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next quarterly meeting of the South Carolina Athletic Commission is scheduled for August 4, 2015.