

Tennessee
Athletic Commission
Minutes

DATE: August 11, 2011

PLACE: Andrew Johnson Tower, 2nd Floor Conference Room
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN

PRESENT Commission Members

Steve Hannah, Chairman

Teri Mast, Vice-Chairman

Dr. Robert Fitch

Jack Sammons

Scott White

Chuck Clarke (via Teleconference)

Joe Smith (via Teleconference)

Melissa Bast (arrives at 1:40)

PRESENT Staff Members

Joe

PRESENT Steven Majchrzak, Asst. Commissioner C&I

Call to Order

Chairman Hannah called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. The following business was transacted.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Mullen called the roll. Seven (7) Commission members were present and two (2) were absent.

MINUTES

Ms. Mast made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Sammons.

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS UPDATE

Mr. Mullen states that there have been no pro fights since the last event and that there are none scheduled at this time. Mr. Mullen states that he has been in touch with the UFC. They will not be coming to TN this calendar year. He was told that it was very possible the UFC would come to Memphis or Nashville early in 2012. Mr. Mullen states that he has tried to contact Pro Elite a new MMA organization. He has left messages but they have not been returned. Mr. Mullen states that he also called Golden Boy Productions. They have not returned his calls. Mr. Mullen states that he contacted Andrew Madagan of the WSB. Mr. Madagan informed him that the WSB would not be returning to Memphis. Mr. Joe Smith confirmed that he had heard the same thing. Mr. Mullen also gave a report on the annual ABC Conference held in August. He stated that his report on the Unified Amateur Rules would come later under new business.

Steven Majchrzak, Assistant Commissioner of Commerce and Insurance gave a financial report to the Commission. He said that the commission's financial position was challenging. He said that TAC expenditures had exceeded revenue by \$123,995. He said the Commission had a reserve balance of \$68,990, with the reserve, that put the Commission \$55,005.negative.

Assistant Commissioner Majchrzak stated that there is an automatic sunset hearing set when a reg board is negative two years in a row. He said that that does not apply to the Athletic Commission because they are not part of Reg boards. He said that the "Hot Topic" would be how do you prevent a recurring deficit? He said there were only two ways to do that: reduce overhead or find new sources of revenue. Steve Majchrzak says we are dependent on big events to pay the day to day expenses of the Athletic Commission. Jack Sammons states that we are at the mercy of the UFC. Steve Majchrzak states that many of the expenses are down from last year. Jack Sammons states that ultimately it is up to the legislature to decide if this is a service they want to continue to give at a loss. Chairman Hannah states that Memphis and Nashville have benefited greatly from previous UFC and Strikeforce Events. Hannah asks how many states regulate MMA. Mullen answers in the 40's. Sammons asks how many UFC events are held per year. Mullen answers around 30. He states that Nevada and California usually have more than one event. Commissioner White asks Mr. Mullen if he knows how the neighboring states are funded. Mullen states that the Georgia Athletic Commission receives an appropriation from the general fund. Georgia is not self funded. Mullen states that Mississippi is self funded and that they sell MMA and Boxing License plates to fund the commission. Commissioner White states that we need to see these facts in report form from the neighboring states. Mr. Mullen agrees to email the reports to the commission in two weeks. Commissioner Sammons states that we should approach the CVB's of Memphis and Nashville to help us with fiscal impact numbers. Mullen says he will also approach the CVB's and asked them for numbers. He will try to have those ready in two weeks also.

Assistant Commissioner Majchrzak reports that some changes are being made in the checks and balance system of transaction reporting for the Commission. Mr. Majchrzak reports that

since Mullen is now inputting all the transactions that he can no longer be the approver. We will be using inspectors to do that in the near future.

LEGAL REPORT

Joe Underwood reports that he is filling in for Ed Scudder today. Mr. Scudder had to be out of town. Mr. Underwood reports that the TN Athletic Commission does not have the authority to recommend that Fightfax change Jeff Holcomb's record.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr Mullen reports that Unified Amateur MMA rules were adopted by the ABC at the national conference. He reports that there are basically two differences. There will be a two tier system of rules. Fighters with 3 fights or less will not be allowed to strike to the face of a grounded opponent. All amateur fighters will be required to wear shinguards. This will safeguard the fighters and make amateur MMA visually different than pro MMA. Pro boxing is visually different (headgear, jerseys, & white striking surface gloves) than amateur boxing . This would do the same for MMA.

Commissioners White asks if this was voted on and approved by the ABC. Mr. Mullen answers yes. Scott says he does not think we have the authority to require this. Mr. Mullen states that we do have the right to hold the sanctioning bodies to certain requirements. Steve Hannah said we should research this. Joe Underwood said he would feel better if Ed Scudder was here for this.

Commissioner White asks if Mr. Mullen got to talk to any promoters at the ABC Conference. Mr Mullen said that he had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Ratner about the UFC coming to Tennessee.

Chairman Hannah says it looks like we have our direction. To justify our existence.

Adjourn

There is no further business to discuss, the meeting is adjourned.

