

**TENNESSEE
ATHLETIC COMMISSION
MINUTES**

DATE: May 12, 2011

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

PRESENT: Commission Members:
Steve Hannah, Chairman
Teri Mast, Vice-Chairman
Melissa Bast
Chuck Clark (via teleconference)
R. Warne Fitch, M.D.
Tanika Pinn, M.D. (via teleconference)
Scott White

PRESENT: Staff Members:
Steve Majchrzak, Deputy Commissioner
Jeff Mullen, Executive Director
Ed Scudder, Assistant General Counsel
Susan Lockhart, Executive Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Commission Members:
Jack Sammons
Joe Smith

GUEST: Jeff Holcombe

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hannah called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m. and the following business was transacted:

ROLL CALL

Mr. Mullen called the roll. Six (6) Commission members were present at roll call including Mr. Clark who participated via teleconference; and three (3) were absent. Dr. Pinn joined the meeting via teleconference at 1:20 p.m.

Ms. Bast left the meeting at 1:15 p.m. and returned at 1:25 p.m.

MINUTES

Ms. Mast made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Dr. Fitch. **MOTION CARRIED.** (*Ms. Bast was not present during the vote*)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Recent Combat Sport Events - Mr. Mullen gave an oral report regarding the pro and amateur events that occurred since the March 2011 meeting of the Athletic Commission. He further advised that there are currently no professional fights scheduled for the remainder of the year and that he had contacted UFC, Strikeforce and Golden Boy Boxing regarding the possibility of future events.

Budget Report – Mr. Mullen presented copies of the current expenditures and revenues for the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year. Mr. Mullen advised that the Commission is dangerously close to exceeding their projected expenditures for the year. (*Dr. Pinn joined the meeting at this time*). He further advised that fewer inspectors were utilized at recent events and the meeting schedule was adjusted in an attempt to cut costs.

Mr. Majchrzak advised that the revenues received for the current fiscal year were approximately \$50,000 and the direct expenditures are in excess of \$105,000. He asked the Commission to do a realistic assessment of projected events and other revenue resources that should be taken into consideration for the next year's budget proposal due in September 2011. He further advised that any requests for government appropriations or legislative changes are presented to the governor in October to be considered as part of his proposal for the next legislative session.

Mr. White announced that Mr. Majchrzak was recently promoted to Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Insurance and is being succeeded by Bill Giannini of Memphis as Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Boards. Everyone congratulated Mr. Majchrzak on his promotion.

Mr. White asked when the Commission is scheduled for a Sunset Review and Mr. Scudder advised June 2014.

Mr. Mullen advised that there have only been fourteen (14) small professional events this fiscal year and that the rest have been amateur events. He reminded the Commission that amateur events only pay a permit fee and are not attended by staff.

Mr. White asked Mr. Mullen to look at the contiguous states and determine how they fund their regulatory programs. Per Ms. Bast's suggestion, Mr. Mullen also advised that he would contact the UFC and CVB's to see if he can get an economic impact statement for the major cities in Tennessee.

Mr. Majchrzak left the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Scudder reported that House Bill 2053 is still being considered by the General Assembly and is advancing.

Ms. Bast advised that she checked on the possibility of civil penalties assessed by the Commission being kept in the Commission's budget and found that all civil penalties stay in the General Fund.

Mr. Scudder presented the following complaint for the Commission's consideration:

1. L09-TAC-RBS-2009003471

This complaint alleged that the Respondent, an adult entertainment/exotic dancing nightclub, was conducting unlicensed boxing contests between female combatants. Prize money ranged from two hundred (\$200.00) to three hundred (\$300.00) dollars. The Respondent discontinued the weekly contests when contacted by the Commission. With the Commission's approval, staff initiated discussions for a negotiated settlement. The Respondent ceased operation and the building has been destroyed. The business has not reopened at another location at this time.

Recommendation: Close

Mr. White made a motion to accept Legal's recommendation, seconded by Ms. Bast. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Scudder reported that the rules discussed at the recent Rule Making Hearing are in the "pipeline" to be presented to the Attorney General's Office.

OLD BUSINESS

Venues – Ms. Bast presented a book containing a list of venues for Mr. Mullen to review and post to the Commission's web site.

NEW BUSINESS

Inspectors – Mr. Mullen advised that he will continue to work with one (1) less inspector at small professional events and is working to get the other three (3) part-time inspector positions filled.

ABC Conference – Mr. Mullen asked the Commission for their approval to submit a request to attend the ABC Conference to be held August 2011 in Washington, D.C. After some discussion, Mr. White made a motion for Mr. Mullen to submit the appropriate travel request for the ABC Conference, seconded by Ms. Mast. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Appearance by Mr. Jeff Holcombe – Mr. Holcombe advised the Commission that he is a former professional boxer and requested the Commission's assistance to remove a fight that occurred on October 19, 2002. Mr. Holcombe claimed that the fight was an exhibition match and that he was not licensed at the time. After some discussion, Mr. Hannah asked Mr. Holcombe to submit any additional supporting documentation in writing to the Commission for their consideration advising that the Commission was not in existence at that time and must consider all information possible before overriding an action made by their predecessor(s).

Ms. Bast left during Mr. Holcombe's appearance at 2:45 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.