

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NANAIMO ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX
ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-OCT-13, COMMENCING AT 12:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Unger, Chair

Members: Commissioner B. Avis
Commissioner B. Bestwick
Commissioner E. Garner
Commissioner B. Meunier

Absent: Commissioner L. McNabb

Others: RCMP Liaison, Wally Taylor

Staff: D. Osborne
H. Richardson, recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

(a) Minutes of the Regular Nanaimo Athletic Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2010-MAY-19 at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Bowen Park.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

4. DELEGATIONS:

(a) Jay Golshani and John Nguyen, Promoters of Battlefield Fight League, requesting event sanctioning for a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) event at Frank Crane Arena 2011-MAY-14.

Mr. Golshani laid out his proposed plans for a MMA event at Frank Crane Arena in April of 2011. Depending on sanctioning, the event will be either exclusively professional, or a mix of professional and amateur. He defines amateur as fighters who have NEVER been compensated for fighting. He is proposing 10

professional and four amateur bouts which will run from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Ticket prices would range from \$19 to \$175 and would be sold mainly by fighters and through the Battlefield Fight League website. He has run events in Vancouver and Calgary and some international. He doesn't serve alcohol. The venues for his previous three events were Rocky Mountaineer Station, the River Rock Casino, and River Creek Casino in Calgary. Mr. Golshani will do a security plan for his proposed event. He uses one police officer for every 100 fans, and 30 security guards, two ringside doctors, paramedics and an ambulance on-site. Fighters must have all their bloodwork done within six months of the fight, must have a 'fit to fight' note from the doctor, and depending on the requirements of the sanctioning body, can have CATScans done if need be. The purse will range from \$1,200 to \$45,000, depending on the event, with a combined maximum for the night of \$65,000.

- (b) Mr. John Cooper, 601 Milton Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2L4, South Western BC Affiliate, King of the Cage Canada, regarding Commission Policy decisions regarding the sale of alcohol at our events.

Mr. Cooper attended the meeting to request guidance in applying to City Council to allow alcohol to be served at mixed martial arts (MMA) events sanctioned by Nanaimo Athletic Commission (NAC). A prior meeting was held between City of Nanaimo Staff and the RCMP regarding this issue and it was deemed that alcohol would continue to not be served in accordance with Section 9 of the NAC Policy Manual. Mr. Cooper questioned why alcohol was able to be sold at unsanctioned events such as hockey and lacrosse. Demographics have changed substantially since the bylaw was drafted, when there was no MMA. Mr. Cooper ran an event in Vernon where alcohol was served and he can get a letter of reference regarding that event. Chair Unger reminded Mr. Cooper that City Council is responsible for the alcohol policy and he needs to address City Council about this issue as the NAC can only make recommendations to Council on the issue. Mr. Cooper is planning his next event for the summer of 2011.

Commissioner Bestwick suggested that the best place for this event may be the Vancouver Island Conference Center, where it would be easier to sell out with capacity at 1,000 to 1,200 people.

Mr. Cooper also suggested that Sections 7.5 and 7.6 of the Athletic Commission Policy regarding the length of time between combative sports events, be reviewed for consistency.

It was moved and seconded that the delegations be received. The motion carried unanimously.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- (a) Alcohol Sales at Combative Sports Events.

6. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Report on Association of Boxing Commissions ("ABC") Conference in New Orleans, in July 2010 – Commissioner E. Garner.

This was a very good conference that covered all aspects of combative sports. Amateur events were the center of discussion and consensus was to either ban or sanction the events. All amateur events should follow unified ABC rules. Commissioner Garner was appointed to a committee to review the scoring system.

Commissioner Garner was the only member of a Canadian athletic commission attending the ABC Conference who still belongs to the Canadian Boxing Federation (CBF). The cost of a CBF membership is \$200. The Commission will review the pros and cons of belonging when the membership fees are due.

Commissioner Garner, Mr. Jim Kipp and Mr. Joel Scobie attended training in Las Vegas to update their judging certification. Mr. Garner recently judged an event at the River Rock Casino and attended an MMABC sanctioned event in Cumberland. The MMABC is involved with Sport BC and does not answer to the Attourney Generals office.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action)

- (a) E-mail Tim Lueckenhoff, Executive Director, Missouri Office of Athletics and President, Association of Boxing Commissions, dated 2010-AUG-02 discussing the regulation, or not, of amateur events.
- (b) E-mail from Orest Zmyndak dated 2010-SEP-19 regarding TJ Coletti, a fighter who even though suspended, but fought in three events in a period of 29 days.
- (c) E-mail from Keith Varga dated 2010-OCT-04, requesting sanctioning for kickboxing event at the Port Theatre on 2011-JAN-15.

It was moved and seconded that the Correspondence Items be received. The motion carried unanimously.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Canadian Boxing Federation ("CBF") AGM.

It was moved and seconded that staff draft correspondence to the Nova Scotia Athletic Commission requesting minutes from the 2010 CBF Annual General Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Christmas Social. The Commission Christmas Dinner will be held 2010-DEC-01 at 6:30 in the Bowen Auditorium.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Update of Athletic Commission Bylaw, Recommendation to Council.
- (b) Review of NAC Policies 7.5 and 7.6. These policies state:

7.5 The Commission will have a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 60 days between professional boxing and wrestling events.

- 7.6 The Commission shall have a minimum of 90 days between approved Toughman/Toughwoman Boxing events.

As all events are treated as professional events they should be treated the same. These policies should be used as a guideline. A minimum of 60 days between events would be appropriate.

It was moved and seconded that staff revise these policies to reflect a minimum 60-day period between NAC sanctioned events and that the term "Combative Sports" be used to define all events sanctioned by the NAC. The motion carried unanimously.

These revisions will be presented by staff at the next meeting of the Commission.

- (c) Keith Varga Request for Sanctioning for Kickboxing Event at Port Theatre on 2011-JAN-15. This event is an amateur event with one professional bout. Mr. Varga returned his Application for Sanctioning to staff but there is pertinent information missing.

It was moved and seconded that staff contact Mr. Varga with the requirements for having his 2011-JAN-15 kickboxing event sanctioned by the Nanaimo Athletic Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

- (d) Jay Golshani and John Nguyen, Promoters of Battlefield Fight League Request for Sanctioning for a Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) event at Frank Crane Arena 2011-MAY-14. Commissioner Garner stated that Battlefield is a very well respected organization. Staff will do a background check with the River Rock Casino and the Vernon Athletic Commission and will encourage Mr. Golshani to submit an Application for Sanctioning.

10. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Commissioner Garner questioned what the policy is regarding the length of the term of the Chair of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission. According to Bylaw 7020, Section 6.2 "The Chair shall serve a three (3) year term and shall serve a maximum of two (2) successive terms."
- (b) Commissioner Bestwick suggested that a trial combative sports event, serving alcohol, be held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC). It is an adequate facility for hosting such an event. The rental fee for the VICC is based on the Association of Conference Centres fee guidelines and is not flexible. The event could be of a higher quality and tickets sold at a higher cost. Commission members agreed that holding one event that served alcohol, on a trial basis, would give an objective view of a combative sports event with liquor being served.

Recommendation: That the Nanaimo Athletic Commission recommend that Council reconsider the sale of alcohol at combative sports events and approve a trial event at the VICC with the sale of alcohol, to give an objective view of having liquor sold at these events. The motion carried unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:50 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission to be determined at a later date,

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



M. Unger, Chair
Athletic Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R. Harding, Director