

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NANAIMO ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX
ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-MAY-19, COMMENCING AT 12:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Unger, Chair

Members: Commissioner B. Bestwick
Commissioner L. McNabb
Commissioner B. Avis

Absent: Commissioner E. Garner
Commissioner B. Meunier

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-FEB-24 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.

(b) Minutes of the Regular Nanaimo Athletic Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2010-MAR-03 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. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Meeting With RCMP RE: Alcohol Sales At Events. Richard Harding, Darcie Osborne, Ted Swabey and Andy Laidlaw, City of Nanaimo Staff and Chair Unger,

met with Superintendent Jeff Lott, Corporal Dave LaBerge and Constable Dave Sherr from the RCMP, to discuss liquor sales at combative sports events in Nanaimo. Staff confirmed their support to continue current procedures of a no alcohol policy at NAC sanctioned events.

(b) Revisions to Nanaimo Athletic (NAC) Commission Bylaw.

- (i) Chair Unger is working with the Legislative Services department to amend NAC bylaw to include an RCMP Liaison on the NAC. This liaison is to be appointed by the Officer in Charge.
- (ii) In accordance with NAC Bylaw 7019.19, when a championship fight takes place during a combative sports event, the Promoter is charged an additional \$1,000 fee.

Recommendation: That the Nanaimo Athletic Commission recommend that Council remove the \$1,000 fee for Major Championship fights from the Nanaimo Athletic Commission Bylaw 7019.01.

When an in-house championship title fight is held at an event, it brings in national and international attention, which in turn brings more revenue to the City.

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

5. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action)

- (a) E-mail from Commissioner Ed Garner regarding the Association of Boxing Commissions ("ABC") conference in New Orleans and his desire to attend. Mr. Garner also provided information regarding events he has recently attended as a Judge. He also attended a MMA judging clinic in Vernon.
- (b) E-mail from Commissioner Brent Meunier regarding the ABC conference in New Orleans. Mr. Meunier feels this is a very important conference and is submitting his withdrawal from going, and recommends more funding be allocated to Mr. Garner to attend.
- (c) E-mail from Mr. John Cooper, Promoter, King of the Cage Canada, requesting that NAC consider overturning the ban of liquor sales at Mixed Martial Arts events in Nanaimo.

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

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Review of King of the Cage Event held 2010-MAR-12, at the Frank Crane Arena. Deferred to next meeting.

- (b) New Orleans Convention. Mr. Garner and Mr. Meunier had both intended to go to the ABC conference in New Orleans. However, costs exceeded the total \$2,000 budgetted for commission members to attend such meetings. Mr. Meunier has withdrawn his desire to attend and supports Mr. Garner's attendance.

It was moved and seconded that Commission Garner be allotted up to \$2,000 to defer costs for travel to the ABC Conference in New Orleans. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Alcohol Sales At Combative Sports Events. Staff surveyed eight different cities regarding the sale of alcohol at combative sports events. Some venues allow promoters to run their own alcohol sales. Commissioner Bestwick reported that at Nanaimo Clipper games there are 750 to 1250 units sold on average at \$5 per drink. 200 drinks need to be sold in order to break even. Promoters of MMA events feel that alcohol sales would offset the cost of rent. Fights draw a different clientele than sporting events, and the RCMP feel the crowd could potentially overflow into the downtown sector after the fights are over. Commissioner Bestwick feels that everyone should not be painted with the same brush. There are liability issues to the City with respect to the sale of alcohol at these events.

Promoters blame lack of interest in events on no alcohol being sold, when perhaps more promotion of the events would be beneficial.

Commissioner Bestwick suggested that promoters need to be steered to venues that may be more suited to their event. Venues are very important for ambiance and the success of the event. It would be better to have 1,000 in attendance with a sold out venue than using a larger venue that is only one-quarter full. Staff have spoken with John Cooper, Promoter, and are encouraged that he will investigate holding his next MMA event in a smaller venue such as Nanaimo Ice Centre.

Commissioner Bestwick left the Bowen Conference Room at 12:40 p.m. due to a potential conflict of interest.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Nanaimo Athletic Commission recommend that Council not approve the sale of alcohol at combative sports events in Nanaimo.

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

Commissioner Bestwick returned to the Bowen Conference Room at 12:42.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

- (a) Sharing Medical Information with Other Communities. Sharing medical information of fighters with other communities is a very serious matter and one that should not be practiced.

It was moved and seconded that the Nanaimo Athletic Commission not share medical information of fighters participating in their sanctioned events, with other communities.

Although there are some benefits to sharing information with other communities, there are potential liability issues as well. If fighters wish to share their information with other communities, they can request a photocopy of their medical information from the City, and they can forward it to the other community requesting the information.

The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Upcoming Events. An NWA/ECCW Pro-Wrestling Event will be held 2010-JUN-26 at the Centennial Building. Commission members are invited to attend and must identify themselves at the door to gain entrance.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:00 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
Nanaimo Athletic Commission

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:

R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture