

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR NANAIMO ATHLETIC COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE ROOM 7, OF THE BEBAN PARK RECREATION CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-OCT-07, COMMENCING AT 12:00 NOON**

PRESENT: Commissioner M. Unger, Chair

Members: Commissioner E. Garner
Commissioner B. Meunier
Commissioner B. Avis
Commissioner L. McNabb
Commissioner B. Bestwick
Mr. W. Taylor (Advisory Member)

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 12:00 noon.

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, 2009-JUN-03, at 12:00 noon, in Room 20 of the Beban Park Recreation Centre.

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

4. DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Mr. John Cooper, 601 Milton Street, Nanaimo BC, V9R 2L4, South Western BC Affiliate, King of the Cage Canada, requested sanctioning of the mixed martial arts event to be held on 2010-MAR-12, at Frank Crane Arena.

Mr. Cooper is proposing 10 to 14 Mixed Martial Arts professional bouts on the card.

A mixed martial arts event was held at Bear Mountain Arena in August. Fighters at this event were deemed to be fighting illegally and were suspended from future fights as the event was not sanctioned. Some of those fighters that were hoping to fight in Mr. Cooper's 2010-MAR-12

event have contacted Mr. Cooper seeking permission to fight even though they are suspended.

These fighters contacted the Edmonton Athletic Commission prior to the Bear Mountain Event and were told that they had permission to fight and that it was a legal event. Mr. Cooper is seeking leniency with these fighters and will research any background he can find that gave them permission to fight at Bear Mountain.

- (a) Mr. Don Arnott, 5304 Sherbourne Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 2J8, Promoter, So You Wanna Fight, requested sanctioning for a So You Wanna Fight event on 2010-MAY-15, at the Beban Park Social Centre Auditorium.

This is a boxing event with a Mixed Martial Arts division. The event will be held at Beban Social Centre Auditorium following the same format as the previous fight.

Mr. Arnott is also the promoter for an amateur Mixed Martial Arts event scheduled for the Port Theatre on 2010-FEB-05. Organizers feel that no sanctioning is needed for this event as it is an amateur show. Commission is concerned that non-sanctioned combative events are being held in City facilities.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Arnott provide documentation to the Nanaimo Athletic Commission at their 2009-NOV-18 meeting, regarding the 2010-FEB-05 Mixed Martial Arts amateur event at the Port Theatre, that outlines the event in its entirety, including background information on the association who is organizing the show. The motion carried unanimously.

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

5. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Mixed Martial Arts Information Requests – D. Osborne. Numerous requests have been received from across Canada for information regarding holding combative sports events. A section will be included on the City of Nanaimo website that will include information regarding the holding of these events, including rules, fees, procedures, forms required from both promoters and fighters, and a link to Nevada State Mixed Martial Arts Rules. A list of Nanaimo Athletic Commission members will be included containing only e-mail addresses for contact. It was also suggested that an approved equipment list from the CBF be attached.

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

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Canadian Boxing Federation (CBF) AGM – Commissioners Garner, Meunier and Advisory Member Taylor attended the CBF AGM held in Winnipeg from 2009-JUL-09 to 11.

The CBF is purely a regulatory body. There is only \$10,000 in their bank and no money to work with. There was very little interest in setting up provincial commissions. Discussion centered around fights that have been deemed illegal pursuant to the Criminal Code. There was a call for more training and accreditation for officials. Communication between provinces is being improved through the creation of a database.

- (b) “Amateur” Mixed Martial Arts – M. Unger – Once fighters are paid for an event, they should be considered “professional”. Until there is an amateur MMA body, no amateur events should be held. For the protection of all participants, all combative events should be reviewed by commissions. A clear definition between amateur and professional fighters needs to be defined. The main difference between amateur and professional fighters is that professionals are paid. Does this include travel expenses, lodging, etc? A clear definition of amateur/professional is needed.

It was moved and seconded that staff request Legislative Services draft documentation that all combative sports events be reviewed by the Nanaimo Athletic Commission. The motion carried.

Opposed: Commission Bestwick

Any sports that are considered ‘Olympic’ sports can be excluded from review. Only events where a purse is available to fighters or an admission fee is charged should require sanctioning.

- (c) Police Checks for Promoters – M. Unger – Criminal record checks have historically been required for promoters of events that are sanctioned by the Nanaimo Athletic Commission, but have not been enforced.

It was moved and seconded that the Criminal Record Checks be carried out for promoters holding events for the first time in Nanaimo, or every two years for promoters hosting combative sports events on a regular basis in Nanaimo.

Criminal Record Checks can be carried out at two year intervals to determine if any current criminal activity has taken place that would impact the operation of combative sports events under the jurisdiction of the NAC. Chair Unger proposed a friendly amendment to the motion:

It was moved and seconded that promoters holding combative fighting events in Nanaimo be willing to submit to Criminal Record Checks when requested by the Nanaimo Athletic Commission. The motion as amended was adopted unanimously.

W. Taylor suggested that Criminal Record Checks not only be requested of promoters, but also of ringside physicians. This item will be brought forward at the next NAC meeting.

- (d) Television Rights – M. Unger – Fees for television rights are being charged by some commissions (mainly American) to promoters showing their events on television. Commission can see a large return on these events being broadcast. Some members felt that there is no cost to the City showing these events on t.v., the only cost being to the promoter. It is an opportunity for having the City promoted through the use of these broadcasts.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- (a) Head Official Discussion – nothing further.
- (b) Fee Structure for Nanaimo Athletic Commission. A review of NAC fees and charges for combative sports events was reviewed. The cost of holding events to promoters is much higher if charged on a percentage basis. The standard fee for most events is 3% of the gate versus a flat fee. If events are run on a percentage basis, more of an onus is on staff and commission in running the events.

It was moved and seconded that Item #1, Permits, from the Nanaimo Athletic Commission Fees document, be approved as is and be reviewed on an annual basis. Motion defeated.

Opposed: Commissioners Unger, Avis, Garner, Meunier, McNabb.

Fees for Other Championships and Standard Contests are too low. In discussions at the CBF conference in Winnipeg, attendees felt that NAC fees for events were too low. NAC will examine the fee structure of other commissions and standardize their fees to be more in line with the national standard. The collection of fees from promoters should not be onerous and should be kept simple, but should be standard so that promoters can budget accordingly. Possibly a policy of a set fee or a percentage, whichever is greater, can be applied.

It was moved and seconded that B. Meunier, M. Unger, E. Garner and D. Osborne form a committee to review current Nanaimo Athletic Commission fees and present proposed changes to the Nanaimo Athletic Commission at their 2009-NOV-18 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) King of the Cage Canada - sanctioning request by John Cooper, Promoter.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Athletic Commission approve the King of the Cage Mixed Martial Arts event scheduled for 2010-MAR-12 at Frank Crane Arena, subject to revisions to fees and charges at the 2009-NOV-18 NAC meeting.

- (d) So You Wanna Fight, sanctioning request by Don Arnott, Promoter.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Athletic Commission approve the So you Wanna Fight event scheduled for 2010-MAY-15 at Beban Park Social Center Auditorium, subject to revisions to fees and charges at the 2009-NOV-18 NAC meeting.

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

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 1:40 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of the Nanaimo Athletic Commission to be held 2009-NOV-18 in Room 8, Beban Social Centre at 12:00 noon.

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



M. Unger, Chair
Athletic Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



R. Harding, Director
2009-OCT-16
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