

TENNESSEE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

September 10, 2009

Call to order at 1:03 p.m.

Roll call: Present: Steve Hannah, Dr. Neal Frauwirth, Jack Sammons, Teri Mast, Chuck Clark, Scott White, Joe Smith, R. Warne Fitch. Assistant Commissioner Steve Majchrzak, Assistant General Counsel Ed Scudder.

Absent: Stuart Howard

Approval of July 9, 2009 minutes. Motion to adopt by Commissioner Clark, second by Commissioner Frauwirth. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Update – Jeff Mullen

There was a professional event August 7th in Columbia, and a pro-am fight August 22nd in Millington. There have been numerous amateur fights the last couple of months. There have been less permit requests for amateur fights after Oct. 1st, which is when the regulations re blood test go into effect. Currently there are two scheduled right now, after Oct. 1st.

The sunset meeting was held August 26th. The Commission will exist 4 more years.

90% of amateur events are through ISKA. There are a lot of out-of-state promoters, ex. Georgia, Michigan, Kentucky. They are putting on a lot of shows. The rest of promoters have been in-state. Out-of-state promoters are coming to Tennessee for audience and cost-effectiveness to show in TN than in other states.

UFC – Rampage Jackson is now in a movie and is not fighting in Memphis December 12. There will still be fights on that dates; the announcement will be soon.

Budget review

Projected total expenditures for 09-10 fiscal year: \$326,700.00

Motion by Commissioner Mast to authorize executive director to request a budget expansion commiserate with increased revenue in FY 2011. Second by Commissioner White. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott White – assigned in July to look into procedure to hiring outside counsel, and cost-effectiveness of same. After research, Commissioner White reports that in order to hire outside counsel, we would draft a letter to AG spelling out why outside counsel is needed, duties of atty., why superior to state atty. Range of pay for outside counsel would be \$150-190 hr.

If AG approves request the Commission would prepare a contract. Commission could solicit firms for interview.

The AG is going to be selective about approving the request, and Commissioner White thinks they would deny a request for outside counsel to do what Assistant General Counsel Scudder is doing right now.

In conclusion, retaining outside counsel is not cost-effective. The Commission paid \$40,000 last year to keep C&I department counsel on retainer. Commissioner White recommends keeping state counsel.

Legal Report – Ed Scudder

Updated Act distributed. Discussion of commission dissatisfaction with § 68-115-107(a)(2).

The legal report consists of 2 cases, both recommended for closure.

First involved illegal strikes to back of head, which were not brought up as an issue during the fight. **Motion to dismiss by Commissioner Hannah, second by Commissioner Frauwirth. Unanimous affirmative vote.**

Second regarded unsanctioned MMA events in two separate locations. Investigation did not provide proof of same. **Motion to close by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Mast. Unanimous affirmative vote.**

New member Dr. R. Warne Fitch to replace Dr. Kurt Spindler.

New Business

Sen. Bunch – any way to reduce fee for pro-am events? Jeff Mullen – maybe excuse \$50 amateur permit fee. Dr. Frauwirth – the Commission delegated authority to regulate amateur sports to sanctioning organizations.

Official's pay scale – in law, promoter pays officials. Commission can't tell them how much to pay, but can recommend pay scale/guideline. Discussion of same - can base it on intended size of event. Commissioner Frauwirth suggested that a small show pay \$250. \$350 for small arena, \$450 for large arena, \$550 for nationally televised show. Commissioner Frauwirth and Executive Director Mullen will put together suggested numbers for next meeting.

Executive Director Mullen brought up the \$229 cost per person for drug testing. With three events coming up so close to each other (within a week), suggests choosing one fight from one of the three events to test in effort to save \$. Commission in favor of this plan.

The Commission accepted nomination of a new chair due to expiration of one-year term of Chairman Jack Sammons. Commissioner Clark moved to accept Joe Smith as chairman by acclamation, second by Commissioner Hannah. Unanimous affirmative vote. Election of vice-chairman: Commissioner White moved to elect Steve Hannah. Second by Commissioner Sammons. Unanimous affirmative vote.

Commissioner Frauwirth suggested the Commission hold a ringside physicians training seminar. Commissioner Frauwirth would head up and organize sessions.

Adjourn at 3:07.