

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)
Wednesday, September 23, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Attending: Commissioners: Taylor Leavitt, Ty McCartney (teleconferencing) and Leslie Reberg. Director: Bill Colbert and guests Robert Wombacher (PSUAC Judge/Referee), Jewls Fuchs (US MRI) and Ted Kyle (US MRI)

Commissioner Leavitt called the meeting to order.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

Approval of Minutes

None

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None

Financial Report

Bill provided the Commission with a current budget report (about 1/3 of what is projected to use.) The travel expenses were high; however, Bill suggested the finance officer may have under budgeted out of state travel for the Associated Boxing Commission (ABC) Convention is a July 2013 expense. The Commission is doing very well financially.

Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, September 27, 2013 – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT. Bill and Commissioner Leavitt will be covering the weigh in on the night of Thursday, September 26, 2013. Commissioners Montanez, Reberg and Leavitt will be attending this event. Commissioner Reberg will be bringing one guest. Bill reported that seventeen bouts are scheduled and dressing room size may be an issue requiring extra management.

Crown Fighting Championship Fights (MMA) – Saturday, September 28, 2013 – The Dixie Center – St. George, UT. Bill will be in St. George for both the weigh in and the promotion.

Showdown Fights (MMA) – Saturday, September 28, 2013 – UCCU Event Center, Utah Valley University – Orem, UT. Bill and Commissioner Montanez will be covering the noon weigh in on Friday, September 27, 2013. Commissioners Montanez and Leavitt will be attending this event.

Bill reminded the Commission that if they plan to bring more than one guest to an event, particularly the Showdown Fight, notify him as soon as possible to arrange extra tickets at will call. Commissioner Leavitt will not be bringing a guest.

Elite Fight Night (MMA) – Friday, November 1, 2013 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Muay Thai Institute (Muay Thai Boxing) – Saturday, November 2, 2013 – Muay Thai Institute – Salt Lake City, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, November 8, 2013 – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

FKF Boxing (Boxing) – Friday, November 15, 2013 (Tentative) – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

Fight King (MMA) – Saturday, November 16, 2013 – Western Park Arena – Vernal, UT

FKF Boxing (MMA) – Saturday, November 30, 2013 (Tentative) – The Tuscan – Price, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, December 13, 2013 – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

The Clash MMA (MMA) – Saturday, December 14, 2013 – Eccles Ice Arena – North Logan, UT

Fight King (MMA) – Saturday, January 4, 2014 – Western Park Arena – Vernal, UT

Bill will be trying to schedule training in October as the schedule that month is clear.

Public Hearing – Proposed Commission Fees for FY2015

Bill provided the Commission with a report outlining proposed fee increases. He explained that each time a fee schedule change is made legislature needs to be notified and a public hearing held to approve those changes. Most of the license fees will not change. Bill proposes the following changes:

Judge, Referee, Matchmaker and Contestant Manager licenses – from \$30 to \$50. These are more involved licenses.

Initial Promoter license – from \$125 to \$500. This change will be more in line with what most states are charging.

Promoter license (renewal) – from \$125 to \$250.

Event fees - <1000 attendees: \$500, 1000 to 3000 attendees: \$750, >3000 attendees: \$1,500. Currently, less than 1000 attendees is \$500 flat. Bill stated that the base cost for inspectors alone exceeds \$500. The current event fee schedule is - 500 or less attendees: \$250, 500 to 1000 attendees: \$375, 1000 attendees and up: \$500, 3000 attendees and up: \$750, 5000 to 10,000 attendees: \$1250 and over 10,000 attendees: \$2500. Bill stated that most of the events are under 1000 attendees.

Commissioner Reberg requested Bill to provide the Commission with what the fees are now, what the proposed fees are and how many licenses are currently held at that level so they can project revenue increase.

Commissioner Leavitt would only be comfortable with an increase to \$250 for all promoter licenses. Commissioners Reberg and McCarthy are in agreement.

Commissioner Reberg asked Bill that if there is a fee schedule for supplemental inspectors what the baseline number of inspectors per event is. Bill responded with a baseline of five inspectors; two for each dressing room and one to act as scorekeeper. Sometimes an additional inspector will be assigned to help the commissioner in charge if Bill will not be present at the event. He does charge for extra inspectors if there are extra dressing rooms, an extremely large event or number of bouts causing an increase of contestants and when dressing rooms are separated from the cage/ring. Bill does notify the promoters in advance. The alternative is that the promoter secures a fully compliant venue with two dressing rooms sized to hold all their fighters.

Bill remarked that ring announcers and ringside physicians are not licensed. There has always been the question that if there is any liability on the part of the ringside physician and they were licensed by the Commission, would they be protected under government immunity? Currently, the Commission does not require ringside physicians to maintain their own liability insurance. The question has always been whether their employment covers them off duty.

By Commission request, Bill will put these changes out for a thirty day public comment period. The changes would not take effect until July 1, 2014.

Medical Advisory Committee Report

Mr. Kyle and Mr. Fuchs are in attendance today on behalf of the proposed board members to check in with the Commission to answer any questions. Gary Sanderson and Mike Cosgrave will be attending the Ringside Physician's Association training next month in Las Vegas so they know what the standard for ringside physicians is. Bill will also be attending. Bill reported that the standard for the advisory committee would be that they be members of the Ringside Physician's Association. The Commission does not currently require ringside physicians to be members. Bill does do a cursory look at the background of ringside physicians. The Commission prefers ringside physicians with trauma or ER experience or at least experienced in sports medicine. Mr. Kyle indicated that they would like the Commission to formally rule on the medical advisory committee board.

Bill will put the medical advisory committee on next month's agenda to swear in or appoint.

Director's Report

Bill did call the bond for CCC Promotions and supplied them with the documentation they required. The Commission will probably take a hit of \$500 from anticipated fees and licenses so the ringside physician and contestants are paid. Bill will query the status of the bonding company in a couple of days. There was some discussion.

Bill reported that Dante Craig's manager, Brian Hughes (not licensed in the State of Utah as a manager), has continued to call individuals associated with Tracy Spink's promotion August 17, 2013 threatening law suits. Bill has not received any formal notice of a law suit.

Bill is working with Juan Rivera out of California for corner and inspector training in boxing specifically. Mr. Rivera will charge the Commission a fee of \$500 plus airfare. This training will most likely take place in October 2013.

Bill will be attending the Ringside Physician's conference in mid-October.

Open Discussion – No Action to be Taken

None

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held Monday, October 28, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

Adjourn to Closed Meeting to Discuss the Character and Professional Competence of an Individual or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual (if necessary)

None

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCartney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.