



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Boxing and Wrestling Commission

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE COMMISSION

December 9, 2014
Minutes

The District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission held its scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, at 1100 4th Street, S.W., 4th Floor Conference Room, Washington, D.C. 20024.

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The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scottie Irving at 7:19 p.m. and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: Bryan Irving, Timothy Thomas, and Sean Ponder (called in)

Commission Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Alfred Grant, Commission Boxing Coordinator and S. Skip Brown, Commission Administrator, of the Occupational and Professional Licensing Division and Kia Winston, Legal Advisor to the Commission.

Staff Members Absent: None.

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Agenda Item: Comments from the Public and Guest Introductions

1. Derek Johnson, of Concerned Black Men and a 1980s boxer. Commission Administrator Brown added that he was one (1) of the 2014 Dr. McKnight Event's honorees.
2. Chairman Irving indicated that Fight Night went very well and he thanked all of the officials for their hard work. The Chairman also expressed satisfaction about the decision to move the bouts up earlier in the night, which meant less smoke in the air for the boxers.



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Agenda Item: Minutes

Upon a motion duly made by Chairman Irving and properly seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the Commission unanimously voted to be approve the minutes.

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Correspondence

Commission Administrator Brown read the correspondence for information only:

- Bob Yalen: WBC Women Championship Supervisor Personal Thanks and congratulations for a successful 25th Anniversary of Fight Night.
- Joel Scobie – Canada NABF/WBC – Judge and Referee thank you.

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Upcoming Events

Chairman Irving announced the following upcoming event:

- December 29, 2014 Pro-Wrestling Promoter WWE at the Verizon Center



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Agenda Item: Old Business

Commissioner Thomas announced the following items:

1. Officials Training: January 10th: Commission Boxing Coordinator Alfred Grant indicated that the Yamasaki Brothers in conjunction with the Chief Officials will be conducting the training. He also stated that promoters have expressed interest in hosting more Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) events. So the training will deal with some of the problem areas, contestants getting hurt, under age fighters, changes to the Unified rules and Commission regulations. For the record, this Commission has not allowed any contestants to fight under the age of 18. Although we granted a waiver to Dusty Harrison to box at age 17, it was granted based on the regulations; however, MMA is a different sport and waivers will not be extended in this area.
2. 52nd WBC Convention, Las Vegas, NV (December 14 to 20, 2014): Mr. Brown encouraged officials to attend the convention; encouraged officials to become members of the various sanctioning bodies; and participate as much as possible, which improves their visibility; and can enable officials to enter into the sanctioning bodies rotations. Mr. Brown expressed that Mr. Grant and he plan on attending as well on their own dime.
3. Amateur Boxing Events: Secretary Ricky Womack of Potomac Valley Association (PVA) stated that PVA took 10 kids to New Jersey. Six (6) amateurs won gold and the remainder lost very close bouts. He indicated that since that tournament, he has received calls from Florida, California and other states, inviting PVA amateurs to participate in other tournaments. As a result, he expressed a desire to identify donors to assist the youth in their climb to national recognition. Also, he indicated that Tiara Brown won the Bronze medal in Korea at the Women's World Championship. Tyrek Irby won the World Series of Boxing in the 141 lbs. Division and is now ranked #1 in the country. Mr. Womack stated that Mr. Irby accomplished that feat with less than 20 fights and has been boxing just over a year. Mr. Womack stated that Mr. Irby attributed his success to the competitions in and outside of the metro area, which really made a difference.



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Chairman Irving indicated that schedules of future tournaments should be forwarded to coordinate with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), since it funded football teams' travel to play in the Super Bowl in Florida. Although DPR does not fund food, donors were able to be identified that assisted further.

The teams did very well and two (2) of the teams made it to the Super Bowl. So with enough lead-time of the schedules, there could be discussions with DPR to potentially fund the amateur boxers' travel. He also stated that Mr. Grant and Mr. Brown are working on uniforms for amateur boxers, so when they travel they have uniforms representing the District of Columbia.

Further discussion was around contacting Councilmember Orange, since he traveled to Ireland with amateur boxers. But in January 2015, the City Council new chairperson over the DPR may be an option to speak with on this issue.

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NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Thomas announced the following items:

1. James Smith, Promoter - GFS Entertainment - September 20th Event: Tabled.
2. Upcoming Amateur Events
 - a. U.S.A. Junior Boxing Olympics: Mr. Brown indicated that Marshall Cunningham is the Boxing Coordinator for DPR and the contact person for the event. That the venue options are Bolling Air Force Base and a hotel that can accommodate the boxing and lodging.
3. Special Acknowledgement: Mr. Brown stated that at times an official of an event has been selected for recognition but this time, he wanted to recognize all the officials that worked the November 1st Event at the Constitution Hall; since they were all outstanding and reflected very well on the Commission for that event.



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However, Chairman Irving expressed displeasure over the promoter’s administration and operational aspects that night of the event. There were lapses that were unacceptable, especially with the Mayor and mayoral candidate in attendance. Mr. Brown added that the Commission’s security went above and beyond the call of duty in their efforts that night as well as the Commission physicians for their handling of the incidents that occurred.

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COMMENTS

Chairman Irving commented that over the past 5 years, he has stated that the boxing community needs to do a better job, making a case for additional funding, especially since the executive branch has funds available that are allocated for dog parks, volley ball, football fields and all types of sporting. He also stated that individuals apply pressure and advocate for what they want. The boxing community has to do a better job in advocating for resources, funds and facilities to benefit amateur boxers in the city, because what the boxing community has done in the past has been subpar.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

PVA Secretary Ricky Womack announced that PVA will be hosting its Second Annual Awards Banquet on December 27th at the Gallery Serengeti, located at 7919 Central Avenue, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. The time will be 6:00 pm. Many awards will be presented and it is a fundraiser to support the travel fund for the amateur boxers to travel. He has tickets for the banquet.

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Agenda Item: Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mr. Irving and seconded by Mr. Thomas, the Commission meeting was adjourned at [7:44 pm](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Irving, Chairperson

Date

Recorder: S. J. Brown
Commission Administrator