



Occupational and Professional Licensing District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission

**March 8, 2023
Minutes**

The District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission held its scheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, via Webex Teleconference.

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The public meeting was called to order by Chairman Huff at **12:11 pm** and attendance was taken.

Commission Members Present: **Commission Chairman Andrew Huff, Commissioner Christopher Jenkins, and Commissioner Shawn Townsend**

Commission Members Absent: **Commissioner Kim Lockett and Commissioner Roger Mitchell, M.D.**

Staff Members Present: **Nicole McClendon – Program Coordinator, Skip Brown – Deputy Commissioner, Marc Nielsen – Legal Counsel, Jacqueline Noisette – Interim Program Manager, OPL and Kimberly Troxler – Program Support Specialist**

Staff Members Absent: **None**

Agenda Item: Comments from the Commission

- Deputy Commissioner Brown – Wanted to acknowledge that he and Ring Announcer Henry Jones attended an event to honor Muhammad Ali given by his brother Robin. There were lots of notables from the boxing world in attendance. Deputy Commissioner Brown offered congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Commission. Indicated it was an awesome event. Mr. Jones agreed. Recommended that the Commission should consider hosting this kind of event to honor local notables who had a major presence in boxing.

Agenda Item: Comments from the Public

- Henry Jones – No comment
- Sharon Sands – No comment
- Eric Davis – No Comment

Agenda Item: Executive Session – Closed to the Public

- We will now go into executive session, which is closed to the public, in order to consult with our attorneys to



seek legal advice; to discuss disciplinary matters; and to deliberate upon decisions in adjudication actions and proceedings, as provided by D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(4)(A), § 2-575(b)(9), and § 2-575(b)(13). We will resume the public portion of the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. Please stand by for our return if you are participating online.

Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins, and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session.

Commissioner Townsend was called away and had to excuse himself from the meeting, so the quorum was lost during the Executive Session. We immediately moved out of Executive Session and continued with a Business meeting instead.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes:

- February 8th - Tabled.

Agenda Item: Old Business:

- **Wrestling Exhibitions** – Licensing requirements for professional wrestling events that are not standalone but are an attraction as part of another event. Chairman Huff is in agreement with Deputy Commissioner Brown’s recommendation of a \$100 permit fee and licensing for all participants. Vote Tabled.
- **Budget Meeting** – Chairman Huff and Commissioner Lockett met with staff from Council Member Kenyan McDuffie on Thursday, February 9th to introduce themselves and to discuss some budget requests:
 - **Community Grant Fund** – Requested an increase from \$25K to \$100K annually. Grant applicants would be programs that focus on the use of Combat Sports as related to life skills development, conflict resolution, and activities of that nature.
 - **Promoter Incentive Fund** – Requested \$150K annually. Large and small promoters alike have expressed how expensive it is to host events in the District of Columbia. The funds would be used to offset the cost of hotels, venues, ring rentals, EMS security, etc. The funds would be passed along to the vendors and venues, not the promoters themselves.

Will update when the Mayor’s budget is announced.

- **DC Brau Recap** – This final event from Prime Time Promotions was successful for the most part. Standing room only crowd. Chairman Huff indicated that he’d been contacted by a reporter from the Washington City Paper regarding an article being written about the event since it’s their last one. The Chairman spoke with the reporter 3 times but he’s unsure of what the angle for the story will be.



Agenda Item: New Business:

- **Grant Application** – Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that we’re at the early stages of putting together the application. We’re sifting through resources and talking with Commission Counsel. Will present a draft by the next meeting.
- **5% Commission Fee for Local Promoters of Wrestling & Boxing Events** – Tabled.

Agenda Item: Events to Approve:

- **New Japan Pro Wrestling** – Sunday, April 15th @ the Entertainment Sports Arena (ESA)
Tabled.
- **Rising Star Entertainment** – Saturday, May 5th @ the Entertainment Sports Arena (ESA)
Tabled.
- **That’s A Plug Boxing Event** -Saturday, May 20th @ WEG Studios (Old BET Soundstage)
Tabled.

Agenda Item: Adjournment:

- The meeting ended at 12:42.

The Next Scheduled Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at noon** via Teleconference/Webex.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Huff, Chair

Date 4/12/23

Minutes Recorded & Prepared by: Kimberly Troxler, DLCP/OPL Program Support Specialist