



Occupational and Professional Licensing District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission

January 11, 2023
Minutes

The District of Columbia Combat Sports Commission held its scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, via Webex Teleconference format.

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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: **Chairman Andrew Huff, Commissioner Kim Lockett, Commissioner Roger Mitchell, M.D., and Commissioner Shawn Townsend**

Commission Members Absent: **Commissioner Christopher Jenkins**

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

Staff Members Absent: **Cynthia Briggs – Program Manager**

Agenda Item: Comments from the Commission

- **Chairman Huff** – Congratulated the Commission and particularly Staff for the success of the week of activities leading up to the Davis/Garcia Boxing Event at the Capital One Arena. The event set a gate record for the venue of \$5 million in ticket sales and almost 20,000 people in attendance, with the previous record being held by the Rolling Stones.
- **Commissioner Lockett** – Offered additional congratulations to the team. Says the next day she received a message from Mayor Bowser and Chief of Staff Falcicchio saying everyone did a great job and the Mayor indicated that she had a lot of fun.
- **Commissioner Mitchell** – Continued the accolades stating his appreciation for the work behind the scenes and seeing how everything comes together.
- **Commissioner Townsend** – Expressed his congratulations, acknowledging the hard work that happens behind the scenes and looking forward to other future big events. He added that the response he’s heard from the public inside and outside the DMV is that it was a nice event.
- **Deputy Commissioner Brown** – Stated that this was the first event of the year and the biggest event of the year and it was the place to be. It was an enormous event and an enormous success, and everyone deserves kudos for their respective roles. The feedback he’s received is that it was a spectacular event.

Agenda Item: Comments from the Public

- **Eric Davis** – Boxing Promoter, doesn't feel that the Commission supported him as a small promoter in the same manner as the larger promoter for the Showtime/PPV event, noting that his main event had to be scratched from the card of his premier boxing event in August 2022. Though he acknowledged that medicals weren't provided in a timely manner, he feels that the Commission should have done more to guide him as a first-time promoter. Chairman Huff acknowledged his feedback and explained the Commission is tasked with enforcing boxing and wrestling regulations in DC and those regulations clearly state the requirements for medicals so there was no flexibility in that case, regardless of whether it's a large or small promoter. Mr. Davis also questioned why the Commission didn't provide comp tickets for the Showtime/PPV event to local promoters. Chairman Huff explained that comp tickets are given at the discretion of the promoter and the Commission only receives a few comp tickets. For that event, some tickets were given to the youths at various local boxing gyms. Commissioner Lockett and Deputy Commissioner Brown reiterated that Commission requesting tickets for promoters or anyone else is a conflict of interest and goes against DC's ethics laws. Chairman Huff welcomed Mr. Davis to write a letter if he has any additional feedback. Mr. Davis agreed to do just that.
- **Henry Jones** – Ring Announcer, expressed disappointment with not having an opportunity to participate in any of the media events for the Davis/Garcia boxing match. He thought it was disrespectful for the promoter to not respond to the Commission's request to allow him to announce matches or acknowledge prominent people in attendance during intermission. He believes the Commission should have been more aggressive with their request. Chairman Huff acknowledged Mr. Jones's feedback and contributions; however, he reiterated that the Commission is bound by the city's code of ethics and must be careful in being diplomatic with aggressive advocacy. Commissioner Lockett and Commissioner Mitchell agreed as a 35-year veteran of the DC boxing community, Mr. Jones should have been allowed to participate.

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.

There was no business to discuss for Executive Session

Agenda Item: Minutes:

- Upon a motion duly made by Commissioner Lockett and properly seconded by Commissioner Mitchell, Commission unanimously voted to approve the Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2022.

Agenda Item: Old Business:

- **Wrestling Exhibitions** – Pro wrestling matches that take place as a part of larger events, with no ticket sales for the wrestling matches, just entry into the events. The Commission must decide how to handle our requirements i.e., licensed wrestlers, medical requirements, and permit fees. Deputy Commissioner Brown requested permission to table the discussion until the February meeting to fully prepare for it. The Chairman agreed.



- **Official Pay Increase** – Chairman Huff proposed making some adjustments to officials’ pay to ensure they’re competitive with the adjacent jurisdictions. For the record, Deputy Commissioner Brown stated the promoter for the Davis/Garcia fight was generous enough to pay our officials a higher rate of pay. He acknowledged that our officials are dedicated and skilled and a bump in pay is fitting to reflect their expertise. He also noted that 2 new officials have been acquired.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Lockett and properly seconded by Commissioner Townsend, the Commission unanimously voted to approve a pay rate increase for the DC Combat Sports Officials to stay competitive with neighboring jurisdictions of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

- **MMA Training** – Deputy Commissioner Brown indicated that the scheduled trainer had to leave the country. Once a hard date is secured, the Commission will be notified.
- **Premier Boxing Champions – WBA Lightweight World Championship Boxing Event, Saturday, January 7th @ Capital One Arena** – The event was a major success.

Agenda Item: New Business:

- There was no new business to discuss.

Agenda Item: Adjournment:

- Commissioner Huff adjourned at 12:55 pm without objection.

The Next Scheduled Regular Meeting is **Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at noon** via Teleconference/Webex.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Huff, Chair

Date 2/9/2023

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