

NOTES FROM UNOFFICIAL MEETING OF THE
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER SPORTS COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 25, 2020

This meeting was held via phone conference as the State of Louisiana was under a “stay at home” and closure of non-essential business order by the Governor due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Present on the call: Billy Montgomery, Ken Antee, Joe Mero, Clay Bohanan, Don Williams, Bob Brotherton, Stacy Brown, Lyndon Johnson, Larry Anderson, Kelly Wells, Sheila Norman

Not on the call: Doyle Adams

The meeting began at 8:04 am.

Stacy Brown led off the meeting with a review of cancelled/postponed events. She noted some of these events that cancelled have already received their 2020 funds and the board will have to consider and decide on whether or not to ask for the funds back in 2020 or move them to the 2021 events.

USA Softball has postponed their Stand Beside Her Tour and the Olympics are looking at moving to the summer of 2021.

The members all gave an update on the entity they represent. Mr. Mero indicated SPAR is closed until April 13. Mr. Bohanan indicated BPAR is closed as well and will re-evaluate on April 13. However, some April and May events are still scheduled at this time. Mr. Johnson indicated that Caddo Parish is shut down with no estimated date for re-opening. Mrs. Brown relayed that Bureau and Sports staff are working from home. They are checking on events and hoping to help them reschedule. The CenterPoint Red River Balloon Rally is still on for June 12-13 and staff continues working on that event.

Mrs. Brown reviewed the February financials. Staff is holding down expenditures and overall administration is looking at where they can make cuts to the budget. Mrs. Brown reiterated that some events that have cancelled or postponed have received funds already and the board will have to decide how to handle those events that received funds but had expenses too.

Mr. Wells discussed the 2020 CenterPoint Energy Red River Balloon Rally noting that if it cannot take place June 12-13 we may have to cancel altogether or come up with other ways to enhance it whether it is with professional kite fliers, etc. We will look at cutting back on the cost of entertainment and will hold off on the purchase of rain insurance coverage until it can be discussed at the April board meeting.

Mr. Anderson asked if Mr. Wells had been able to get in touch with the SWAC Commissioner. Mr. Wells indicated he emailed the Commissioner and he knew he had read the email, but has not heard back from him. Mr. Johnson indicated that SWAC is interested in a central location like Shreveport. Mr. Wells will reach back out to the Commissioner.

Mr. Wells continues to work on a future college football game, as well as a junior college bowl game for maybe this December.

Mr. Johnson suggested for next spring – a LSU purple and gold game or maybe a week of practice be held here; and maybe the cities and parishes could assist with this. Mr. Antee said to check on a potential NCAA rule about spring practices that might prohibit these being held here.

Mr. Montgomery asked about lost hotel revenues during this time. Mrs. Brown indicated probably 50% could be lost during this time of “stay at home” and the closure of non-essential businesses.

The meeting ended at 8:48 AM.