

MINUTES OF THE
SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER SPORTS COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD
September 23, 2020

Members Present:

Billy Montgomery, Chairman
Doyle Adams, Bossier Parish Police Jury
Stacy Brown, Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau
Clay Bohanan, City of Bossier
Bob Brotherton, Bossier Parish Police Jury
Larry Anderson, City of Shreveport
Lyndon Johnson, Caddo Parish Commission

Members on Zoom:

Ken Antee, Caddo Parish Commission

Not Present:

Don Williams, City of Bossier City
Joe Mero, City of Shreveport

Staff Present:

Nick Kopka
Charlie Rice
Kelly Wells
Taylor Gullatt

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission (SBSC) Advisory Board was held on September 23, 2020 in the office. Board members and public had the opportunity to participate via Zoom; however, due to Proclamation 102 from the Governor dated August 6, 2020, members can participate, but will not be counted towards the quorum or have the ability to vote. Billy Montgomery, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:59 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the August 26, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Following review, Mr. Brotherton moved to accept the Minutes as distributed. Commissioner Johnson seconded the Motion which was voted on and passed with no public comment.

Financial Report

Mrs. Brown presented and reviewed the financials for August with the members. The board was reminded that the SBSC is no longer transferring funds in its reserve account monthly and instead and using those funds to attract more sporting events to our area.

Mr. Gullatt reviewed the projected budget for the remainder of the year noting the adjustments made due to the effects of COVID-19 on the economy due to closures and travel

interruptions. In August, the hotel/motel revenue was down 22% which is significantly better than some of the previous months.

Commissioner Johnson asked if the board could view a spreadsheet that would show last year's operating budget as compared to this year to obtain a better understanding of how our budget would look under normal circumstances. Taylor said that this would be possible and that he would put those comparisons together for the board.

Sports Update:

Funding Application - One funding application was presented. Battle on the Hardwood Classic for the weekend of November 20, 2020. The event would bring approximately 3,000 total spectators, participants, and staff. They are asking for \$5,000. Mr. Brotherton asked about the current social distancing regulations and how it would be feasible to host this event with that many people given the current restrictions. Mr. Wells mentioned that we are looking into other options regarding a venue such as the CenturyLink Center or Centenary College Gold Dome that could accommodate more people.

USA Boxing National Championships – Mr. Wells let the board know that during the Stay at Home Order earlier in the year that we had contacted USA Boxing about hosting their National Championships for the year 2022, but after Hurricane Laura hit South Louisiana USA Boxing called the SBSC and asked if it would be possible to move the event from Lake Charles to Shreveport-Bossier City. Last Wednesday, USA Boxing made the announcement that they would bring the event to Shreveport-Bossier City. They expect 1,000 - 1,500 boxers to participate which will generate approximately 5,500 room nights. The Hilton Shreveport and the Shreveport Convention Center stepped up and really helped out with getting the event to Shreveport. There will be a press conference on Wednesday, September 30, at 2:00 PM to be held at the Shreveport Convention Center. Mr. Brotherton moved to vote on approving the SBSC to continue moving forward with the event. Mr. Bohanan seconded the motion and all members voted to continue moving forward.

USA Volleyball Update – USA Volleyball announced that they are hosting their Women's Tournament in Wichita, Kansas. Mr. Wells believes that we still have an opportunity to host the Men's FIVB Championship next year.

College Football Update – Mr. Wells let the board know that Louisiana Tech and the University of Louisiana at Monroe will still take place this year at Independence Stadium. He also mentioned that the sports commission is working with Northwestern State University and Grambling State University to host a matchup between the two teams in September in 2022.

LSU vs. LA Tech Matchup – The NCAA voted to start their college basketball season after November 25 which has moved the Louisiana State University vs. Louisiana Tech University's men's basketball matchup to a later date that is being tentatively held by the CenturyLink Center.

Red River Balloon Rally Update – The Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission is close to signing the contract to bring the team nationals back to Shreveport for 3-4 years. The competition will allow the balloons to fly over the course of the week leading up to the festival. It also observes how the sports commission is doing in managing its overall budget.

Funding Calculator – Nick Kopka, Logistics Manager, shared with the board the funding calculator used to determine the appropriate amount of funding for events. The funding calculator serves as only a guide.

Stageworks Update – Mr. Wells said that we are still working on Stageworks and thinks that we need about \$2 million to open Stageworks as an indoor sports complex. Other cities and towns are spending \$18 million+ on opening their own sports complexes. We need to get the city, parish, and other entities on board in order to consider making this a reality. Commissioner Johnson asked to send a shorter version of the current plans for him to review.

George’s Pond Renovation Update – Mr. Wells showed the renovation updates to the board.

Remaining dates for the board meeting are October 28, November 18, and December 16. The last two dates were moved to the third week of the month due to the holidays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Bob made a motion to adjourn and clay seconded which was voted on and passed with no public comment so the meeting adjourned at 9:04 AM.

Billy Montgomery, Chairman