

Minutes of the
Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission Advisory Board
February 3, 2020

Members Present:

Billy Montgomery, Chairman
Stacy Brown, Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau
Bob Brotherton, Bossier Parish Police Jury
Jeff Free, City of Bossier
Larry Anderson, City of Shreveport
Doyle Adams, Bossier Parish Police Jury
Clay Bohanan, City of Bossier
Joe Mero, City of Shreveport

Members on Zoom:

Not Present:

Lyndon Johnson, Caddo Parish Commission
Shantel Hardison, Caddo Parish Commission

Staff Present:

Nick Kopka
Kelly Wells
Taylor Gullatt
Sara Aymond
Charlie Rice

Call to Order

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission (SBSC) Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 in the office. The board meeting was delayed a week due to a lack of quorum for the originally scheduled meeting on January 23. 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 8:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Following review, Mr. Brotherton moved to accept the Minutes as distributed. Mr. Free seconded the Motion which was voted on and passed with no public comment.

Introduction of Event and Sales Coordinator

Mr. Wells introduced a new position, Event and Sales Coordinator, to the board noting that the SBSC has several large events coming up in which we needed additional staff support. Gina DePingre will serve in this new role after previously working on the services side of the SBCTB.

Mrs. Brown mentioned that Gina will start back as a part-time temporary position to determine further need.

Financial Report

Mr. Gullatt reviewed the projected budget for the year of 2020 and noted that the SBSC was down approximately 40% but will end in a net surplus due to the lack of events that were able to take place.

Mr. Gullatt mentioned the financial department is still working on year end reporting and will have a January report ready for the originally scheduled February meeting.

SBSC Bylaws Discussion

Mrs. Brown mentioned that she and Lyndon met to review the bylaws and to update them as needed. The proposed changes were addressed in front of the board. It was noted that there are a few things that need to be addressed before submitting for approval at the February 24 meeting.

Sports Update:

Funding Application – There were six funding applications presented. The 2021 AKA MMA events, WODGODZ, Louisiana Adult State 55+ Men and Women League Championship, LSUS Events, Fit for Life, and 2-D Sports.

Mr. Wells first introduced Bishop Promotions six events that they are planning to host. He mentioned that these fights will now be live broadcasted over UFC Fight Pass. We will be one of thirty locations to be broadcasted over this streaming service. The staff recommendation was to award a total \$21,000 due to the additional media coverage for the events. The grant will be divided out and awarded per event and a portion of the grant will be given to the Bossier Civic Center to cover venue costs while the remaining is awarded to Bishop Promotions. Mrs. Brown suggested that we award the grant for the first two grants.

Mr. Bohanan moved to provide \$3,500 in funding for the first and second AKA events totaling \$7,000. The Motion was seconded by Mrs. Brown, motion passed unanimously with no public comment.

Mr. Wells introduced the Northwest Louisiana Tennis Association and Ms. Aymond presented the event to the board. Ms. Aymond said that this event has been moved from Lake Charles but was not accounted for in the budgeting and the staff recommended that we award them \$2,000. The funds that were awarded to the Northwest Louisiana Tennis Association in 2020 have been rolled over to 2021.

Mr. Bohanan moved to provide \$2,000 in funding for the Louisiana Adult State 55+ Men and Women League Championship. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Mero, motion passed unanimously with no public comment.

Mr. Wells presented to the Board the two LSUS events that will be hosted, the Red River Athletic Conference Baseball Tournament and the NAIA Baseball Championship Opening

Round. LSUS has asked for \$10,000 for the four events they plan to host for the year but are seeking \$5,000 for the first two events.

Mr. Adams moved to provide \$5,000 in funding for the two LSUS events that are to be hosted in the Spring. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Bohanan, motion passed unanimously with no public comment.

Mr. Wells presented to the Board the Fit for Life event and mentioned that the SBSC budgeted \$22,500 if Fit for Life was able to retain the Men's Body Building Championship. The Board reaffirmed approval as budgeted.

Ms. Aymond presented to the Board the River Cities Triathlon event and mentioned that the SBSC budgeted \$10,000. The Board reaffirmed approval as budgeted.

Ms. Aymond presented to the board the 2-D Sports funding application and mentioned that this event has had approximately 20 teams that participated from more than 60 miles away. Only \$2,000 was budgeted for the two events but given that there has been growth in the tournaments the staff recommended \$3,000 for 2-D sports.

Mr. Brotherton moved to provide \$3,000 in funding for the two 2-D Sports events that are to be bid on in the Spring. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Mero, motion passed unanimously with no public comment.

Mr. Wells mentioned the WODGODZ event and that the board approved \$5,000 in the previous board meeting, but after meeting with the WODGODZ, they are requesting additional assistance. Mr. Wells mentioned that this event was originally budgeted for \$10,000, but approved for \$5,000 and is now seeking to approve an additional \$2,500 for the event for a total of \$7,500.

Mr. Brotherton moved to provide an additional \$2,500 in funding for the WODGODZ event. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Bohanan, motion passed unanimously with no public comment.

Ms. Aymond shared with the board that USA Boxing and LSU Oschner are partnering together to provide COVID-19 testing for participants at the tournament. USA Boxing is requiring participants to come with a negative test not more than 72 hours in advance. Currently there are no spectators for this event, but there is a potential for spectators to be allowed for the championships. The number of participants for this event has grown to 1,600 participants. USA Boxing has done a great job in ensuring that the health and safety of everyone involved is first priority.

Mr. Wells shared that the Texas Cornhole League came to Shreveport to discuss hosting an event here. Texas Cornhole League just hosted an event that had 1,600 participants and the SBSC is working with them to host the event in the Shreveport Convention Center.

Mr. Bohanan shared that the city of Ruston has already begun pouring cement for their \$20 million indoor sports complex for volleyball, basketball, and other events. Mr. Bohanan was reached out to by someone from the city to ask how many rooms that Shreveport-Bossier had. The addition of the indoor sports complex in Ruston will be a great addition for their already

impressive outdoor complex. Mrs. Brown will reach out to the city of Ruston to help them identify rooms that they need for the additional tournaments that will be hosted. Mr. Bohanan mentioned that we are missing out on an opportunity to use Stageworks to host more events here in Shreveport-Bossier.

Mr. Wells shared that the Shreveport Mavericks held a press conference last week to announce that they are bringing back the team and starting a new semi-professional league. The Mavericks had great attendance from the media and other entities. The Mavericks asked for some additional help in expenses for their press conference. The board is hesitant to pay for these types of expenses. The Mavericks are exploring Stageworks and several other gyms in the area as a potential home location.

Mr. Wells shared a press release with the board that the SBSC and the New Orleans Sports Foundation partnered together bid on the Division II Men's and Women's Basketball Championships. The joint bid was submitted in conjunction with the New Orleans Sports Foundation to host the championships at the Brookshire's Grocery Arena. The NCAA will announce the winner of the bid in the coming weeks.

The next board meeting will take place on February 24, 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Montgomery made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Bohanan seconded which was voted on and passed with no public comment, so the meeting adjourned at 9:13 AM.

Billy Montgomery, Chairman