



**Sports Commission Board Meeting minutes
July 12, 2017 ▪ 11:30am
Central Illinois Regional Airport**

ATTENDEES: Matt Hawkins, Jon Althoff, Mike Wagner, Denise Balagna, Beth Sauser, Leanna Bordner, Jon Voegele, Steve Newman, Rich Zeller, Jim Benson, and Brie Lohr.

1. Action Items

- State Farm Holiday Classic Sponsorship
 - John Althoff stated that the Sports Commission has given money to the Holiday Classic for many years. They always give \$1,000 while the CVB also gives \$1,000. Mike Wagner motioned to approve a \$1,000 sponsorship for the Holiday Classic. Steve Newman seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- Bloomington Criterium Sponsorship
 - John Althoff stated that the Sports Commission has been a sponsor of the Bloomington Criterium for the past four years. They are requesting \$1,250. Steve Newman stated that, from a CVB standpoint, Mayor Renner and the Aldermen are very strongly in favor of this event because of its location in downtown Bloomington. He motioned to approve \$1,250 as a sponsorship for the Criterium. Beth Sauser seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

2. Discussion Items

- Sports Complex
 - Bloomington Parks Master Plan: Matt Hawkins passed around a list of talking points regarding the sports complex. Denise Balagna stated that the purpose of the of the focus groups is to identify the current state of facilities and parks, as well as focusing on recreation programs. The BPARD wants to focus on where they've been and where they're going.
 - Steve Newman asked if Katie Kim has approached Dave Stark about donating the land (not the whole land, just the fields). Matt Hawkins replied that it would not be a donation but he would offer the land at a discounted price.
- USA Softball National Tournament
 - John Althoff stated that Cary Frey was supposed to be in attendance but something came up and he was unable to make it. The USA Softball National Tournament will be here the first week in August. They are expecting 120 teams.

3. Committee Reports

- Sports Identity
 - IESA Dual Team Wrestling State Finals: John Althoff stated that an RFP will be going out for the IESA Dual Team Wrestling State Finals. It will be 600 kids over two days. It could be held at the Coliseum.

- New Sports Commission Event: John Althoff stated that the Sports Commission should start brainstorming a new event. He stated that E-gaming is extremely popular. Mike Wagner agreed, saying that at Illinois Wesleyan University many students participate in it. Denise Balagna said that pickleball is very popular in the area. John Althoff added that 3 on 3 basketball is making a comeback. Denise Balagna stated that there will be an obstacle course run in Ewing Park called “Hill of a Race” on October 7. Jon Voegele stated that COUNTRY Financial is hosting an inflatable 5k in September at the fairgrounds.
- Fundraising
 - John Althoff stated that the State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet went well. He added that the speaker did a great job, and we received good feedback from attendees.

4. Open Discussion

- Matt Hawkins stated that after this year, the Bloomington Criterium race director will be stepping down. This could be an opportunity for the Sports Commission to take over and run the event.

5. Director’s Report

- FAM Tour
 - Matt Hawkins stated that the CVB will be conducting a Familiarization (FAM) Tour this fiscal year. This is an opportunity for tournament directors and event planners to tour our facilities and hotels.
- State Farm Youth Classic
 - Matt Hawkins stated that the tournament went well. 348 golfers participated with 9 states being represented. 134 of them being first-timers.
- Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament
 - The Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament was held last weekend. 1,100 wrestlers from 21 states participated in the tournament.

Next Meetings: All at Central Illinois Regional Airport
 Wednesday, September 13th, 2017
 Wednesday, November 8th, 2017