



**Sports Commission Board Meeting minutes
September 13, 2017 ▪ 11:30am
Central Illinois Regional Airport**

ATTENDEES: Matt Hawkins, Jon Althoff, Mike Wagner, Denise Balagna, Beth Sauser, Leanna Bordner, Jon Voegele, Steve Newman, Stan Lewis, Kathleen Lorenz, Cary Frey, Crystal Howard, Katie Kim, Brie Lohr and Brittney Boyd.

1. Discussion Items

- Sports Complex
 - Katie Kim stated that she has been attending many community events over the last month and a half, as well as having several meetings with various stakeholders.
 - Katie Kim stated that she met one on one with teams to talk about their letter of intent, which would show the city and the town that, if the complex is built, teams would use it. She has also been showing documents comparing what Rockford did, and they did it with a gap in their funding.
 - Katie Kim showed her PowerPoint presentation on the sports complex.
 - Katie Kim stated that there are three different scopes to the project, and that the business that would bring 400-600 jobs to the area is coming to Peoria in two weeks.
 - Leanna Bordner stated that real people and real money need to be put behind the selling piece.
- E-Gaming Tournament
 - John Althoff stated that since the last board meeting, Matt Hawkins met with some local e-sports contacts. The result from those discussions was that hosting an e-gaming tournament in Bloomington-Normal is feasible. The tournament could start small, possibly with about 16 teams. Matt Hawkins indicated that he hopes to make the event a two to three-day tournament.

2. Action Items

- 2019 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Clinic
 - Matt Hawkins stated that he and Leanna Bordner met with Brock Spack to discuss this event. Some high school coaches want it to stay in Champaign because of tradition, while others want to see it in Bloomington-Normal. The people in charge would like to do a site visit prior to December 10, and would have a decision by January. John Althoff stated that he would like the sports commission to offer \$1,000 as a sponsorship. Kathleen Lorenz motioned to give \$1,000 as a sponsorship to the 2019 Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Clinic. Cary Frey seconded. Leanna Bordner abstained from voting. All in favor, motion passed.

- 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 was here the first week in August and had 116 teams.

3. Committee Reports

- Sports Identity
 - Matt Hawkins and Cary Frey will be going to North Carolina to bid on a 2019 USA Softball Tournament from October 24-26. Cary Frey stated that he feels confident that Bloomington-Normal would receive one of the age division tournaments, most likely 12U. That age division doesn't usually bring in as many teams as the older divisions; he stated that the last 12U division brought in 37 teams, but he is confident that it could reach the mid-50s.
 - New Sports Commission Event: John Althoff stated that a contact from the Bloomington-Normal Disc Golf Club contacted him to see how they could partner with the sports commission for a new event. Denise Balagna stated that Highland Park Golf Course is holding a disc golf tournament.
- CommUniversity
 - John Althoff stated that the CVB Sports Commission will be hosting a tent at upcoming CommUniversity on 9/30. Board members are invited to attend.

4. Open Discussion

- No report.

5. Director's Report

- IHSA Boys Golf State Finals
 - The IHSA Boys Golf State Finals will take place October 13-14. If you would like to volunteer, please let Matt Hawkins know.
- Bloomington Criterium
 - The Criterium was held August 26 in downtown Bloomington. Attendance and participation were significantly down from the year before. Race Director Brandon Beehner may be stepping down as Race Director.
- IHSA Wrestling State Finals
 - An RFP is going out next month for the IHSA Wrestling State Finals for 2019.
- Event Survey
 - A survey for AYBT was included in the packet.

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