



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

ATTENDEES: Matt Hawkins, John Althoff, Denise Balagna, Beth Sauser, Leanna Bordner, Jon Voegele, Steve Newman, Stan Lewis, Kathleen Lorenz, Cary Frey, Rich Zeller, and Brittney Sage.

I. Public Comments

- i. None.

II. Action Items

- a. Board seats
 - i. Seat terms
 - (1) John Althoff stated that Jim Benson, Denise Balagna, and Kathleen Lorenz all have terms expiring in January 2018 and have all expressed interest in renewing their seat for another term. Leanna Bordner motioned to approve the continuing terms. Beth Sauser seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
 - (2) Cary Frey's term also expires in January 2018; however, Doug Damery (Town of Normal Parks & Rec Director) has also expressed interest in the board. Steve Newman motioned for Doug Damery to take over Cary Frey's seat on the board. Leanna Bordner seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
 - ii. CVB Board representative
 - (1) Beth Sauser motioned to approve Steve Newman as the CVB board representative from Sports Commission. Jon Voegele seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- b. 2019 Miller Chill Cyclocross sponsorship
 - i. John Althoff went over the Event Funding Application Form and stated that this event would bring about 75 participants and 75 spectators to the community. Beth Sauser motioned to approve a \$200 sponsorship. Jon Voegele seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

III. Discussion Items

- a. Pole Vaulting event
 - i. John Althoff noted that the Flying Dragons are looking into creating a new "street vault" event. Matt Hawkins discussed that there would be around 30-40 professional vaulters and about 1,000 spectators for this event. John Althoff noted that he would encourage Matt Hawkins to continue to move forward on the possibility of this event in Bloomington-Normal.
- b. Sports Complex
 - i. John Althoff noted that Katie Kim has sent out a letter to both the city and the town asking for support. Steve Newman stated that there was discussion of the Sports Complex in the BNACVB Board meeting yesterday and that he believes there needs to be this discussion every time the Board meets. Kathleen Lorenz noted that there was discussion of putting together a steering committee with about 8-10 people that would range from business leaders to university leaders in order to engage the community. Kathleen reiterated that the sports complex would be a huge economic driver and gave examples that it could help with people coming to the area eating here, staying here, buying things at retail stores, etc. Kathleen Lorenz stated that

Katie Kim is looking for ways to generate revenue and that eventually a few options would be cell towers, billboards, etc.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Sports Identity
 - i. U.S. Figure Skating Regional
 - (1) Matt Hawkins and the Grossinger Motors Arena folks will be meeting next week to go over this possible bid.
 - ii. IESA Dual Team Wrestling State Finals
 - (1) John Althoff noted that this event would be in March 2019 and bring 500 wrestlers over two days. John also noted that there would be a funding request for this event.
 - iii. New Sports Commission events
 - (1) Matt Hawkins included new event ideas in today's packet. The new ideas include: E-Sports, Pole Vaulting, Pickleball, Foot golf, Robotics, Kickball, Jr. High Basketball, Jr. High/Elementary Volleyball, and Competitive eating.
- b. Fundraising
 - i. State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet
 - (1) This event will take place the third week of June and a list of possible speakers was included in today's packet. It was discussed that we will attempt to book Ogonna Nnamani as she had committed before and then was unable to come due to a family emergency.

V. Open Discussion

- i. None.

VI. Director's Report

- a. E-Sports Tournament
 - i. A proposal is in progress that will outline what the event will consist of. The board agreed this event would be a good idea. Matt Hawkins will share the proposal once it is done.
- b. 2019 USA Softball National Tournament bid
 - i. Matt Hawkins noted that Champion Fields was awarded the 2019 USA Softball 12U National Tournament.
- c. Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Clinic
 - i. We are currently finalizing the bid for this event, that would take place in late March 2019. Matt Hawkins mentioned that a December 10th meeting is scheduled and a decision should be made by January.
- d. Bloomington Criterium
 - i. Matt Hawkins mentioned that Brandon Beehner is stepping down and Beth Billing, who is a racer herself, will be taking over. Matt Hawkins noted that July 14th is the target date

VII. 2018 Meeting Schedule (11:30am at CIRA)

- a. Wednesday, January 10
- b. Wednesday, March 14
- c. Wednesday, May 9
- d. Wednesday, July 11
- e. Wednesday, September 12
- f. Wednesday, November 14

VIII. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:55PM.