



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

ATTENDEES: Matt Hawkins, John Althoff, Denise Balagna, Leanna Bordner, Stan Lewis, Kathleen Lorenz, Doug Damery, Jim Benson, Mike Wagner, Austin Grammer (Economic Development Coordinator - City of Bloomington and Alyssa (grad student/intern with City of Bloomington), and Brittney Sage.

I. Public Comments

- i. None.

II. Action Items

- a. IESA Dual Team Wrestling State Finals bid
 - i. John Althoff discussed the packet information with the cost breakdown and noted that this event will take place the week in between 3A/4A Girls Basketball and Special Olympics and that the bid will be due March 1st. The BNACVB committed to \$2,000 per year for the next 5 years. The proposal called for a \$3,000 commitment from the BNASC for 5 years. Leanna Bordner motioned to approve. Kathleen Lorenz seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- b. Illinois Top Times sponsorship
 - i. John Althoff noted that IWU has hosted this event for a number of years and that each year they are approached by Champaign. John mentioned that in the past we've given \$2,000 and discussed maybe having a multi-year commitment. Mike Wagner said that this is really a great event for student athletes and that they keep adding and changing things to make the event bigger and better. Leanna Bordner motioned to approve \$2,000. Kathleen Lorenz seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

III. Discussion Items

- a. Board Seat
 - i. John Althoff began by introducing Doug Damery of the Town of Normal Parks and Recreation Department who will be taking over Cary Frey's seat on the Sports Commission Board for a three-year term.
 - ii. John Althoff noted that Wil Davis will be stepping down from the board and discussed replacement possibilities for his seat, including representation from the BN Hotel & Lodging Association. Matt Hawkins noted that Ray Ceresa, as BNHLA President, would be a strong option. Both Leanna Bordner and Kathleen Lorenz agreed that Ray Ceresa would be good on the board especially with hotel-related discussions. Matt Hawkins is going to talk with Ray Ceresa about the possibility of him joining the board.
- b. Sports Complex
 - i. John Althoff discussed an economic impact feasibility study that the Town of Normal is doing, noting that it looks like a firm will be hired to complete the study by June, 2018. Doug Damery noted that he will be reviewing the bids for the study, and indicated that the study is very comprehensive and will determine what kind of money and events a sports complex could realistically bring to our area.

IV. Committee Reports

- a. Sports Identity
 - i. U.S. Figure Skating Regional: John Althoff noted that Matt Hawkins met with staff from the Grossinger Motors Arena local figure skating club, and they are looking at a bid for a US Figure Skating Regional for October, 2019. The event would bring around 1,000 to 1,500 athletes and several thousand fans.
 - ii. Archery tournaments: John Althoff noted that the 6 Mile Archers are interested in bidding on a state tournament, but they need improvements to their range. The state tournament would bring anywhere from 300 to 400 archers. Matt will follow up to continue discussions with the club.
 - iii. Bloomington Youth Hockey tournament: This potential event would be held in September/October, 2018 with 16 teams for a 2 to 3-day event.
 - iv. New Sports Commission events
 - (1) E-Sports: Leanna Bordner asked where we are at with E-sports. Matt Hawkins explained that the general idea is to have a tournament, but that right now the venue is up in the air. The event committee will be meeting soon to continue the planning process.
- b. Fundraising
 - i. State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet: John Althoff noted that he has asked the group that runs the banquet for feedback on key-note speakers. The committee indicated that Cam Meredith is the top priority. Matt Hawkins will make contact with Cam to inquire about availability.

V. Open Discussion

- i. Matt Hawkins mentioned that he spoke with Tracy Sprout at IHSA and discussed the possibility of hosting the IHSA Officials' Conference in BN. This event would bring around 600 to 800 officials the third weekend in July. Matt noted that Peoria uses Embassy Suites and East Peoria High School for this event currently. Matt Hawkins also noted that they will have to look at the schedules for both AYBT and USA Softball.

VI. Director's Report

- a. Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Clinic
 - i. Matt Hawkins mentioned that our bid was submitted and they seemed to love the proposal. There will be a site visit with their leadership group at the Marriott, Hyatt, and Hancock Stadium.
- b. EDGE Recruiting Showcase/Camp
 - i. Matt Hawkins noted that the Bloomington Edge would like to host an event on April 21st, but that they do not have a field scheduled yet. They are looking at around 100 players, including drills and 7-on-7. Matt will assist the Edge with the event.
- c. Bloomington Criterium – July 14
 - i. Matt Hawkins noted that this event was in August in the past, but that by moving to the July 14th date it will put us more in season for cycling. Matt also noted that they are applying to be a part of the Illinois Cup Series.

VII. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:56PM.

2018 Meeting Schedule (11:30am at CIRA)

Wednesday, March 14

Wednesday, May 9

Wednesday, July 11

Wednesday, September 12

Wednesday, November 14