



**Sports Commission Board Meeting minutes**

**May 15, 2019 ▪ 11:30am**

**Central Illinois Regional Airport**

**ATTENDEES:** Matt Hawkins, Jon Voegele, John Althoff, Doug Damery, Jim Benson, Steven Newman, Beth Sauser, Denise Balagna, and Bethany Kadivar.

**I. Public Comments**

- i. None

**II. Action Items**

- i. None

**III. Discussion Items:**

a. Sports Complex

- i. Doug Damery was asked to comment on updates concerning the Sports Complex. Doug Damery mentioned that from the local clubs' standpoint, there has been positive support for the complex and it looks like from an operational standpoint that it will be fairly easy to run the facility. Talks about the Sports Complex are still taking place between the elective officials.

**IV. Committee Reports:**

a. Fundraising

- i. State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet- June 18<sup>th</sup>
  - 1. Jon Voegele mentioned that they had a great agenda for the banquet and they will have Ashley Green as the Key Note Speaker at the event. The board was invited to attend the event along with a guest.

b. Sports Identity

i. USA Softball Exhibition

- 1. Matt Hawkins indicated that the Town of Normal passed on the USA Softball Exhibition. The date and time that were given to host the event, which was a Monday night in May, would not bring out the crowd needed to make the event successful.

ii. FAM Tour: Mid America Sports Group, Small Town Baseball

- 1. Matt Hopkins spoke about the FAM tour and the sports groups that attended. Two groups are very interested in holding sporting events here in the Bloomington/Normal area. Mid America Sports would like to hold a 16U and 18U tournament at Champion Fields in 2020 and Small-Town Baseball would like to hold a Jr High, High School tournament at the Lexington fields in 2020.

iii. Sports Illinois Huddle: Crappie USA, NJCAA Baseball, USA Curling

- 1. Matt Hawkins explained what the Sports Illinois Huddle was and mentioned that there were 18 groups there and 3 of them seemed to

be potential groups to work with. Crappie USA is looking to hold an event in April of next year. There will be about 60 boats at the event. There is no bid process for the event, if the organizers like the location then they will usually hold the event at that location. There is a \$6,500 hosting fee.

2. Matt spoke with Rod Lovett with NJCAA about the Div. II Baseball National Championship. The bid will be for 2021. An issue that was mentioned was the bathrooms in the dugouts at the Corn Crib.
  3. USA Curling will be bidding out the Men's and Women's Curling Championship for 2021. It is a 13-day event, and would fit the specs at Grossinger Motors Arena. They are looking for a financial partnership for the Championship.
- iv. NASC Symposium: Kayak Bass Fishing
1. Matt Hawkins mentioned that this was another fishing event. No boats are used. This is a fairly new event and there are between 100 –150 anglers who participate at each event. More to come on this event.
- v. Sales Calls: National Club Baseball Assoc., Great Lakes Valley Conf. Baseball, National Junior Prospects Hockey League
1. The National Club Baseball Association is interested in holding a regional event at the Corn Crib in 2020 or their World Series in 2020, 2021. They would be hosting college level club teams. Negotiations on facility rental still need to take place.
  2. Great Lakes Valley Conference Baseball would also like to host their baseball conference tournament at the Corn Crib.
  3. The National Junior Prospects Hockey league is interested in holding an event at Grossinger Motors Arena on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Available ice time will determine how many teams they can get.

## **V. Open Discussion**

- a. The board spoke on hosting more events like car shows, Comic Con's and Cross-Country running events.
- b. Doug Damery mentioned that USA Baseball reached out to Normal Parks and Recreation wanting to use their Champion Fields facility, but they are unable to take more games at this time and asked Matt Hawkins to contact them to see if he could find field accommodations for them.

## **VI. Director's Report**

- a. B-N Video Game Convention
  - i. Ryan Tauscher recently hosting the Bloomington-Normal Video Game Convention at the Radisson which had 750 attendees. Approximately 40% of those attendees were from outside of the county. Ryan proposed possibly combining the Video Game Convention with the Sixty-Six Games tournament. The convention had 30 vendors and a key note speaker. Matt mentioned how he thought it would be a great idea to combine the two events to help grow the tournament into a larger event. Matt said the event would still be held at Grossinger Motors Arena - they would have the convention part of the event on the concourse area and the tournament in the arena. John Althoff mentioned

that he was a little concerned about what type of games would be involved and if they would be appropriate. Matt said that games would be regulated. Jon Voegele mentioned that they can allow games with certain e-ratings to be played. Jon Voegele said that he likes to idea of combining the two events. The board agreed that this is a good idea, and asked Matt to move forward.

- b. Sixty-Six Games Esports Tournament
  - i. The next Tournament will be held on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Matt would like to host a 64-team tournament in two rounds with the first round being online, then having the remaining 32 teams come to the games at the arena. The event would also be held for 3 days instead of 2.
- c. IHSA Boys/Girls Basketball
  - i. The IHSA Boys Basketball State Championship dates conflicted with Special Olympics so the Sports Commission will have to pass on the bid. The Sports Commission will be bidding on the IHSA Girl's State Basketball Championship. There is discussion about making the competition a one weekend event instead of two weekends. At this time the IHSA board is still having discussions and a decision has not yet been made.
- d. State Farm Youth Classic
  - i. The State Farm Youth Classic will be held June 23-25. Matt Hawkins reminded the board that this year the tournament will be held Sunday – Tuesday instead of Sunday – Wednesday like previous years. Registration for the event in on par with last year.
- e. Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament
  - i. The Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament will be held July 12-13. Matt Hawkins mentioned that registration for the even was also on par with last year's event. Matt also mentioned that the winner's belts were being enhanced this year.
- f. Tradeshows – Matt went over each tradeshow and how they are important to work with event planners.
  - i. NASC Symposium
  - ii. Sports Illinois Huddle

**VII. 2019 Meeting Schedule**

- a. Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>
- b. Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>
- c. Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

**VIII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.