



Sports Commission Board Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 2019 @ 11:30AM
Central Illinois Reginal Airport

ATTENDEES: Kathleen Lorenz, Jon Althoff, Denise Balagna, Leanna Bordner, Doug Damery, Stan Lewis, Mike Wagner, Rich Zeller, Jim Benson, Matt Hawkins, Bethany Kadivar

I. Public Comments

- a. None

II. Action Items

- a. 2019-2020 Operating Budget: John Althoff asked the board to review the Sports Commission operating budget for a moment and then asked if there were any comments or questions. A couple of minor questions were asked about some budget details. After review John Althoff asked the board to approve the budget. All in favor. Motion passed.
- b. Illinois High School Shrine Game Sponsorship: John presented The Shrine Illinois High School Sponsorship of \$1500.00. John asked the board to take a look at the sponsorship and what the package would entail. Matt talked about how the event brings about 100 room nights and Mike commented on the large attendance at the event. John Althoff motioned to approve the sponsorship, Leanna Bordner seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

III. Discussion Items

- a. USA Softball Exhibition- John asked Doug to go over the USA Softball Exhibition. Doug mentioned that they are looking to bring in the USA Girls softball team to the Corn Crib for an event. The event would be about \$35,000 to put on but Doug believes that ticket sales should cover the price and there would still be a profit. Leanna asked when the event would be, Doug mentioned the event would be held between June 8th and July 10th 2020. There will be a discount to each city or town if the teams can travel together. Doug said he hoped to have more information soon and that they would need to book the event before fall for John to present to the Corn Crib.
- b. Sports Complex –John asked Kathleen and Doug to share any new information on the sports complex. Doug said that they are pretty much at the same point as they were since the last meeting. As of now they are just trying to determine where to put the sports complex. They have 6 properties that have been reviewed but nothing is public at this time. Doug mentioned that the decision is really up to the Mayors of Bloomington and Normal. Kathleen said that the issue of the sports complex would probably not

come up until after elections were over. Doug mentioned that once a property was chosen they would be able to get more interest from private investors. He also mentioned that the operating budget for the complex was fairly conservative.

IV. Committee Reports

a. Sports Identity

I. New Sports Commission Events- John asked the board to review the New Event Ideas list and asked if there were any events that they were interested in. Matt mentioned that Foot Golf and Disc Golf were growing in popularity. He mentioned that the local archery group was interested in possibly holding an event and that Robotics was growing in popularity as well. Leanna asked Matt if he has contact anyone from Mental Cow about Robotics and Matt mentioned that he spoke with Janet. Matt asked if there are any events the committee would like to look more into. Leanna said robotics and archery. Matt mentioned improvements being made to Maxwell Park for Disc Golf, Doug said that they hoped to have it finished in two years. They talked about holding a Disc Golf tournament there and Matt said that he would look into Disc Golf as well as Archery and Robotics.

V. Open Discussion

a. Leanna also asked if there was a new sports facility going up in the quad cities and if anyone knew about it. Matt said he did not but he could look into it. Matt also mentioned to the committee about the Fam Tour and if members of the board would open their facilities for tours depending on who is planning to attend. Leanna asked about how many people should they expect Matt said between 20 – 30 people. John asked if there are any other items. Nothing was mentioned.

VI. Directors Report

- a. Sixty Six Games E-sports Tournament – Matt went over the event. He mentioned that there was a lack of attendance due to weather but the operation went smoothly. Financially, due to the lack of attendance and lack of sponsorships, they did not meet the financial goal, but the program is still in an incubation period. The committee is still excited to continue the event. They would like to add more teams making it a 3-day event instead of 2. Matt also mentioned that there is an opportunity to raise the registration rate and to create an online portion of the tournament so it can hold 64 teams online for the first half of the tournament and then at the Arena for the second half. Board approved the continuation of the event.
- b. Pickleball Tournament March 30-31 2019 – Evergreen Racquet club will host the event and there are 120 players currently signed up from around the country. Evergreen will have 18 pickleball courts and thanked Bloomington and Normal for letting them borrow nets and supplies for the event.
- c. IHSA Cheer, Dance, Wrestling – Matt said all events went well but there were some staffing issues at the arena but they are looking into it.
- d. IHSA Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball- events are going out to bid. Volleyball is up for bid and there are several communities interested in hosting. IHSA basketball is looking to reformat the State Finals to hold both Girls and Boys 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A

tournaments in a single weekend. Matt went over all the changes to the program if that were to happen. Matt said that they would be holding a meeting soon about bidding on girls and possibly boys volleyball. Matt mentioned if they bid on basketball that they would not need to include the “experience” as part of the bid package.

- e. Bloomington Criterium- Matt said some of the committee members met yesterday and that the committee would resume in 2020 with new leadership. More details to come.

VII. 2019 Meeting Schedule (11:30 at CIRA)

- a. Wednesday, May 15
- b. Wednesday, July 10
- c. Wednesday, September 11
- d. Wednesday, November 13

VIII. Adjourn- John Althoff adjourned the meeting.