



Sports Commission Board Meeting minutes
July 10, 2019 ■ 11:30am
Central Illinois Regional Airport

ATTENDEES: Matt Hawkins, Beth Sauser, Jim Benson, Mike Wagner, Denise Balagna, Stan Lewis, Ray Ceresa, John Althoff, Doug Damery, Kathleen Lorenz and Bethany Kadivar

Call to Order: Beth Sauser called the meeting to order at 11:44AM

I. Public Comments

- a. None

II. Action Items

- a. State Farm Holiday Classic
 - i. Matt Hawkins mentioned that the Sports Commission Board has been giving a \$1000.00 towards the Classic for their sponsorship but believes that they may need to increase the amount of their sponsorship this year. Matt Hawkins mentioned that the costs to put on the event have increased, while ticket sales have decreased. Mike Wagner mentioned how the event brings a lot of people to the community and he thought it would be worth the increase. Mike Wagner moved to increase sponsorship to \$1,500. John Althoff seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

III. Discussion Items:

- a. Sports Complex
 - i. Kathleen Lorenz and Doug Damery were asked to update the board on any progress with the Sports Complex. Kathleen said that the Vice President of Illinois Fire reached out to her and they are still planning on being tenants if they are to build a Sports Complex, however they are still in the process of raising money to buy their own fields. Kathleen said as of right now the process is in the hands of the two city managers. Doug Damery mentioned that his team is unable to move forward with anything until the municipalities have a discussion and make some decisions on moving forward. Ray Ceresa mentioned inviting the city managers to a meeting to discuss the sports complex. The board though it would be a good idea to invite the city managers to a special meeting. Matt will contact the City Managers and invite them to a special meeting.

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. Fundraising

- i. *State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet- June 18th* - Matt Hawkins reported that the State Farm Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet went well. The Pantagraph has been asked to partner with the event to help it grow. Matt Hawkins has a meeting set with the Pantagraph to discuss their partnership and hopefully it will help bring in higher caliber speakers and help the event grow.
- b. Sports Identity
 - i. *Small Town Baseball: June 12-14, 2020* – Small Town Baseball is a group that Matt Hawkins met through Sports Huddle and they also attended the FAM Tour this year. They will be holding a tournament using the fields in Lexington.
 - ii. *National Junior Prospects Hockey League: December 6-8, 2019*- The National Junior Prospects Hockey League is another group that Matt Hawkins met with at Sports Huddle. They are looking to hold a tournament at the arena and the event will be contracted soon.

V. Open Discussion

- a. Jim Benson asked Beth Sauser about the IHSA Boys Golf State Finals. He had heard that the advisory committee wanted to change the format to not cut the field. Beth Sauser said yes, but for now they are keeping the format the way it is where they will be making a cut.
- b. John Althoff mentioned to the board that there will be a USA Military All-Star game on July 18th - 21st at the Corn Crib. The players are active military some have just recently arrived back from deployment. He asked the board to attend the event if possible, to support the troops.
- c. Matt Hawkins mentioned that he was contacted by the Bloomington Fire Department and they are interested in holding a 10-team hockey tournament with other Fire Departments in Illinois. They are looking to hold the event in April of 2020.
- d. Ray Ceresa said that there is a new soccer league, Super Y, that is pulling the best players from different cities/towns to play together so there is a more competitive league. Ray mentioned that it might be worth contacting them to see if they would like to hold a tournament here. Matt Hawkins said that he would investigate it and see if he can contact them.
- e. Jim Althoff asked Mike Wagner if he had any numbers yet for the United Hoops Network. Mike Wagner stated that they did not have final number count at this time.

VI. Director's Report

- a. IHSA Girls Basketball Banquets – 2020 will be the last year that the IHSA Girls Basketball State Finals will have a banquet. Starting in 2021, the tournaments will be combined to one weekend over 3 days. Country will no longer be sponsoring the event so the Sports Commission might need to pick up extra costs during this transition.
- b. Sixty Six Games – Matt Hawkins is talking to Ryan Tauscher who runs the local Video Game Convention to combine into one event. Ryan would work and plan the vendors and the Sports Commission would oversee the tournament. Ryan would keep the vendor fees. All board members agreed to proceed with combining the two events.

- c. Special Olympics Summer Games – Matt Hawkins mentioned that the event was another success this year.
- d. Illinois High School Shrine Game – Matt Hawkins and Mike Wagner said that the event went very well this year. The event will be held June 20th in 2020.
- e. State Farm Youth Classic – This year was the first year with changed dates. The move was well received by parents and players. Overall, there were 333 players which is down from last year, but still a solid number. There were several states represented and there were 2 players from South Africa and 1 from Zimbabwe this year. There were 330 rooms night picked up from the event.
- f. Midwest Nationals Wrestling Tournament: July 12-13 – Currently there are 560 wrestlers registered for this weekend’s tournament. The Head Coach from Northern Iowa is the special guest this year. Matt Hawkins mentioned that Mike Manahan is doing a wonderful job putting on this event.
- g. USA Softball Nationals: July 22-28 – Currently, there will be 40 teams, which is a lower number than expected. USA has new guidelines as to who is qualified to play in a national event, but Doug Damery believes that most leagues are not aware of this new rule and are not aware if they qualify to participate.
- h. Strategic Plan – Matt Hawkins informed the board that there was a strategic planning sheet in their packets, and he would like the board to review it so they may discuss updating it at the next board meeting.

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

- a. Wednesday, September 11th
- b. Wednesday, November 13th

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Beth Sauser asked to Adjourn the meeting. Mike Wagner motioned. Kathleen Lorenz seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:01PM.