

Sports Commission Board Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021 · 11:30am
BNACVB Conference Room

Attendees: Doug Damery, Ray Ceresa, Leanna Bordner, John Althoff, Jay Tetzloff, Matt Hawkins, Rich Zeller, Velda Harvey, Steve Newman

Call to order: John called the meeting to order at 11:42am

I. **Public Comment:** None

II. **Action Items:**

- a. **Board Seats-** John reminded the board that some board seat terms expire at the first of the year, including John, Mike and Steve. Leanna motioned to approve all extensions. Doug seconded. All approved. Jay has agreed to stay on until his replacement is found. Jon Voegelé's seat will be open going forward for replacement as well. Board Development needs to discuss timeline to find someone for both seats and possible replacements. Matt introduced Velda as the new member.

III. **Discussion Items**

- a. **State Farm Youth Classic-** Steve spoke with a father of a player last year about increasing the diversity of the tournament and bringing in players from Chicago and St. Louis among other cities. He recommended First Tee in Chicago which is a recruitment program for youths. First Tee is very interested in participating in the Classic, but it is in the formulating stage. Velda has agreed to join this initiative. Al Nathan has shown interest in bringing a First Tee to B/N and possibly starting a branch here. Steve said a zoom meeting is scheduled in the next few weeks for further steps and possibly including other First Tee programs in other states.
- b. **Sports Complex-** Matt explained that Jeremy Kelley secured the paperwork for the lease of the Sale Barn property. Construction will hopefully start in the spring. Initially, there will be four total fields, with at least 2 of them turfed and all will be lit. The airport has extended the current lease by 1 year. The new fields should be in use by 2023.

IV. **Committee Reports**

- a. **Membership-** Ray will be reaching out to Rich and Al next week to work on an update.
- b. **Fundraising-** They are going to suggest that the group seeking help present their fundraising plans that are more creative than State Farm, Rivian, etc. They will be an advisor role for these groups to help them raise money or collect memberships.
- c. **Facilities-** Doug will have an update before January. Normal is looking at diversifying to baseball, such as the Illinois Baseball Tournament. Champion Fields would be a good fit due to upgrades.
- d. **Sports Identity-** No report.
- e. **Board Development-** Leanna & John will be working on getting 2 new members.

V. **Open Discussion-** None

VI. **Director's Report**

- a. **Sixty Six Games Expo presented by State Farm-** Matt explained the 3rd year was at Redbird Arena and went really well. Great feedback from teams about venue and structure of event. 16 college teams from Phoenix to Boston and about 12 teams were Top 20 ranked. Review meeting was last week and date and structure may be adjusted going forward. Leanna said ISU is in big support of this event but scheduling may be an issue going forward due to changes in sporting schedules. Matt would love to add a convention piece in the future to add vendors and more spectators.
- b. **LiUNA Open Wrestling Tournament-** Matt explained this is a tournament held at Horton Field House in addition to Midwest Nationals. 125 wrestlers participated this year though Mike was hoping for 300-400 wrestlers. Matt sees this as an event that will grow going forward.
- c. **IHSA Boys Golf State Finals-** Matt stated there were no issues with this tournament. This was the 1st year of new 5-year contract.
- d. **IHSA Volleyball State Finals-** Matt said the tournament is being held this weekend at Redbird Arena. 16 teams are participating. This is the 1st year in 5-year contract.
- e. **Community Events-** Matt informed board that his role at the CVB is changing slightly to more event planning/event management. New role is to develop new events in the community.

VII. **2022 Meeting Schedule (11:30am)**

- a. **Wednesday, January 12**
- b. **Wednesday, March 9**
- c. **Wednesday, May 11**
- d. **Wednesday, July 13**
- e. **Wednesday, September 14**
- f. **Wednesday, November 9**

VIII. **Adjourn-** John adjourned the meeting at 12:55pm.