

**Sports Commission Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2023 · 11:30am**  
**Weibring Golf Club**

**Attendees:** Matt Hawkins, Leanna Bordner, John Althoff, Doug Damery, RC McBride, Beth Sauser, Ray Ceresa, Baylee Doorn

**Call to Order:** Beth Sauser called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**I. Public Comments**

- a. none

**II. Action Items**

a. **Ledgestone Open Disc Golf**

- i. Event will be July 30-Aug 6 and is expecting 500 players and 1,500 attendees. It will be streamed and televised with an expected 2+ million viewers. The event will be held across several courses in the area including in Morton, Eureka, Peoria, Washington, and at ICC.
- ii. There was discussion on the “request for sponsorship” handout and whether or not the Sports Commission would be interested in sponsoring and at what level/amount. Specifically, it was noted that the sponsorship would be to establish relationship and to promote the Sports Commission to visitors by having a presence. Leanna moved for the commission to sponsor at the silver level (capping at \$1,000) at Maxwell Park, Eureka temp course, Northwoods Black course, and wherever would be video coverage. John seconded. All in favor, motion approved.

**III. Discussion Items**

a. **IHSA Football State Finals**

- i. Discussion of creating a local organizing committee to coordinate tent city, volunteers, etc. Consensus is that extra help is needed going forward. Each school would have their own tent for the day, as well as one larger entertainment tent (DJ, snacks, etc.). However, some schools may or may not choose to have a tent and there was discussion of sharing tents/just having one big tent. Matt also mentioned that food trucks may be a good option for that area. Logistics are still TBD. Matt & Leanna will put together an outline for how to recruit, etc. regarding the committee.

b. **Events Development Committee Report**

- i. Disc Golf – The board discussed the local BN Disc Golf Open that happens in the Fall and the possibility of the commission partnering to help grow the event and attract players from outside the area. The board discussed assisting to pay course fees so that they could play during a more optimal time of year, as well as assist with marketing and lodging.

- ii. Pickleball – Matt is in discussion with Evergreen Racquet Club to create a new event this summer. There was mention that the new event would be outdoors utilizing area courts. The commission wouldn't own/operate, but rather help with promoting and partnership. The committee involved is looking into facility availability as well as the possibility of incorporating it into an event/fest (or partnering with an existing festival).
  - c. **Membership Committee Report**
    - i. Invitations have been sent out to local businesses to join the sports commission. Rich and Ray are reaching out to the restaurants, and John will be working with banks and insurance agents. Additionally, there will be outreach to the local charities/nonprofits, as well as a table set up at upcoming trade shows. There was also mention of being present at the business after/before hours events. The main goals are recruitment strategy, retention, and engagement. There was mention of bringing a list of who has/hasn't paid their invoice to the next meeting. Also, RC will be creating a marketing strategy for membership recruitment.

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

- a. Matt provided an update about the FC Central IL sports complex. Pre-Covid, they initially thought they raised enough for the fields/facilities, however, due to rising costs they now need to raise more money or wait until costs come down. Currently, the league is using various fields across town for play.

#### **V. Director's Report**

- a. BN Lacrosse Co-op
  - i. The lacrosse club formed by BN area high schools (separate from the Warriors club) is planning to host a camp and grow the club locally. They hope to start hosting events/tournaments in the future.

#### **VI. Adjourn** – Beth adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

#### **2023 Meeting Schedule (11:30 a.m.)**

- Wednesday, May 10
- Wednesday, July 12
- Wednesday, September 13
- Wednesday, November 8