

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2015 @ 11:30 am
NSC Schwan Center/Gold Room B

CALL TO ORDER

Alex Rowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:35 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: Judy Frisch, Alberder Gillespie, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Julie Lunning, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, John Wendt.

Absent: Rep. Joe Atkins, Joel Carlson, Michael Hahm, Bob Milbert, Rick Nelson, Rep. Linda Runbeck, Rep. Tim Sanders, David Stead, Sen. David Tomassoni.

Staff: Todd Johnson, Barclay Kruse, Neil Ladd, Steve Olson, Kris Bjerkness, Pete Carlson, Darin Thompson, Lynda Lynch.

Guests: Tom Duffy, John Daniels.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Made (Frisch), Seconded (Wendt) to approve the proposed agenda for the February 25, 2015 MASC meeting as written and distributed to members. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Nuness), Seconded (Higgins) to approve the November 27, 2014 MASC Meeting Minutes as written and distributed to members. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell, Chair, introduced Todd Johnson, noting this would be Todd's first meeting as the MASC Executive Director. Alex also reported on the recent meeting of the Capital Bonding Committee (complete report later in meeting). Alex noted that MASC legislative members would not be in attendance at today's meeting due to the current legislative session.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Todd Johnson provided members with a progress report on his first three months of serving as the MASC Executive Director noting that within the first nine days he had the challenge of replacing two key NSC employees who were offered new job opportunities with a NHL organization. This afforded the opportunity to promote staff within the organization and assume new responsibilities. In addition, Todd has also had the opportunity to discuss and address the current velodrome issues with the NSCF Board.

Todd commented that the February MASC meeting has been held at the capitol in the past with the intent of providing convenience for legislative members to attend; however, due to the current construction taking place and parking restrictions, it was decided to remain onsite at NSC.

Todd also noted that he was recently informed of the legislative appointments to the NSC Board, including: Senator Tomassoni (reappointment) and only Senate appointment; Representative Tim Sanders (voting), Representative Linda Runbeck (non-voting) and Representative Joe Atkins (non-voting). In addition, it was announced that staff had received verbal confirmation from the Governor's

Office on the reappointment of four commissioners: Judy Frisch, Michael Hahm, Al Nuness and John Wendt.

ACTION/SPECIAL ITEMS

- A. Velodrome Update – John Daniels, NSCF Board Chair, was introduced by Alex. John was in attendance to provide the commission with a brief update on the current status of the velodrome. John provided historical background on the velodrome since its opening in 1990 that included many individual rider and program success stories. John updated members on the current maintenance/operation issues facing the velodrome and the position and action the NSCF Board has taken to this point following recommendations from the Velodrome Subcommittee. The resolution proposed at the December 18 meeting would provide the Friends of the Velodrome Committee the option to raise 50% of the temporary repair and operation costs for 2015 and thereby extending the operational life of the velodrome for four to six years, was not approved. Since that time, the Friends of the Velodrome Committee has raised \$165,000 that will cover the cost of repairs but not the cost of operations. They intend to continue to work on their fundraising efforts to secure the funds needed to support the repairs/maintenance and operations for five years.
- B. Legislative Update – Todd Johnson provided a brief update on current MASC legislative initiatives noting that there has been one hearing in the Senate on MASC's proposed budget which includes a \$34,000 increase/year for the next biennium. The hearing went well with no specific questions to be addressed. Todd also noted that the Governor may announce, pending status of the revenue forecast report, a small bonding bill that could include any projects previously submitted that did not receive funding; 2016 remains the larger bonding bills with more significant project initiatives. Todd noted that a Mighty Ducks bill has been introduced in both the House and Senate and focuses on the R22/air quality requirement for arenas. Judy Frisch provided a brief summary from the recent MASC Capital Bonding Committee meeting held on January 24 noting the following recommendations for project priority in 2016: 1. Moorhead/Northwest Regional Sports Ctr (\$4.0 million), 2. NSC/Maintenance Building (\$3.95 million), 3. Asset Preservation (\$850,000), 4. Mighty Ducks (\$2.0 million), 5. St. Paul/Regional Ctr-planning (\$100,000) for a total \$10.9 million.

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORTS

- A. Steve Olson provided an update on the Sport Fitness Academy noting that a nutritionist affiliated with the University of Minnesota has been secured. A survey is being developed with the intent of engaging with parents of participants involved in the program. Steve has also met with a group of legislators that vet out bills that deal with childhood obesity. Steve also provided background on the Hennepin County Youth Sports Program noting that the program recently completed its Fall 2015 grant cycle and awarded grants for 14 facility projects and 16 small equipment grants.
- B. Kris Bjerkness reviewed the NSCF Financials for the period ending December 31, 2014 noting that the report reflects pre-audit numbers. Kris noted it has been good year with field sports having an exceptional year. It was noted that sponsorship revenue is a vital component and is a big part of ensuring a positive year-end balance and offsets debt payment obligations. Kris reviewed the Balance Sheet for the same period noting that its cash flow/working capital remains strong. Kris also reviewed the preliminary financial report for January 2015 noting things are on track with budget and is starting the year in a good financial position. Staff is preparing for its annual audit to be conducted on April 20 and a preliminary report may be available at the May 20 MASC meeting.
- C. Barclay Kruse reviewed the Communications Log of recent MASC and NSCF programs and activities. The log included descriptions and links for news releases, episodes of NSCtv and NSC blogs. Members will be sent this in email format to allow for accessibility to the link. It was

suggested that staff consider sending this to members on a monthly basis as it serves as a viable communication tool to keep members up-to-date. Barclay also noted that staff is in the process of redesigning the NSC website. Barclay is also maintaining his active role with Explore MN Tourism and providing assistance to communities with promoting sports tourism.

- D. Pete Carlson updated members on recent staff hires as well as outlining the number of staff that have worked at the Super Rink that have moved on to better job opportunities. The Super Rink has served as a positive training model for its staff and has afforded individuals the opportunity to continue successful job growth. Pete reviewed the 2015 Super Rink Events and Programs list noting if members are interested in attending any of the events to contact him for information or tickets.
- E. Darin Thompson provided a summary of the recent staff changes as a result of Kara Radeke leaving and Colleen Bourdon retiring. Darin noted that the preliminary numbers for the 2015 Schwan's USA CUP are projecting ahead of last year's numbers.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm. The next MASC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20 at 11:30 am at the NSC Schwan Center/Gold Room B.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch