

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2015 @ 11:30 am

CALL TO ORDER

Alex Rowell, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:40 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: Representative Joe Atkins, Alberder Gillespie, Joan Hallock, Senator Alice Johnson, Bob Milbert, Rick Nelson, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, Chair; Representative Linda Runbeck, Senator David Tomassoni. **Absent:** Joel Carlson, Judy Frisch, Michael Hahm, Julie Lunning, Representative Tim Sanders, Senator David Senjem, David Stead, John Wendt.

Staff: Todd Johnson, Steve Olson, Barclay Kruse, Neil Ladd, Darin Thompson, James Nelson, Lynda Lynch. **Absent:** Pete Carlson, Kris Bjerkness. Guest: Tom Duffy, Ex-Officio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Gillespie), Seconded (Runbeck) to approve the February 25, 2015 Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission meeting minutes as written and distributed to members.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Made (Hallock), Seconded (Gillespie) to adopt the May 20, 2015 Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission Proposed Agenda as written and distributed to members. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell reported that staff had received official notification of the reappointment of four commission members with their terms expiring on January 1, 2018: Judy Frisch, Michael Hahm, Albert Nuness and John Wendt. In addition, Alex introduced, and requested board members and staff provide a brief introduction, to the new legislative appointees: Representative Joe Atkins and Representative Linda Runbeck.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Todd Johnson noted how he continues to be impressed by the staff. Todd distributed a copy of the Statewide Master Plan that identified the current and potential regional sports centers noting that he has talked to Moorhead and Marshall and have met with a group from Mankato (currently not on the list) as well as Anoka County Parks (shooting range), Ramsey County (Battle Creek Area--cross country skiing). It was also suggested to pursue contact with Ramsey County/City of Arden Hills regarding the future plans for the arsenal property and potential biathlon training center.

Todd also updated members on the recent termination of the sponsor agreement with Coca-Cola and the signing of a new agreement with Pepsi. The agreement provides for the same financial benefits; however, with the inclusion of the Gatorade promotions to the various NSC events, and its participating teams, upgrades the sponsorship deal significantly. The new sponsorship signage will also provide an enhanced image for the facility.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of National Sports Center Board Member Appointees – Todd Johnson provided brief background on the MASC’s role in recommending and approving board appointments to the National Sports Center Foundation Board. Following review of the proposed resolution, **Motion Made (Milbert), Seconded (Johnson) to approve the NSCF Board Appointment Resolution as written and distributed to members (copy attached). Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Task Force Appointment – Todd reviewed the rationale in regards to the establishment of a joint task force that would be comprised of MASC and NSCF board members with the purpose of having a collaborative discussion on common issues and projects with the intent of improving the relationship and understanding between the two boards. In addition to receiving names of potential volunteers, Alex Rowell suggested that Todd recruit members and provide an update on the task force to members not attending the meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Legislative Update:

1. MASC Budget – Todd updated members on the status of the agency’s operating budget funding for the next biennium (2016-2017) noting that the current bill includes the proposed budget increase for a total of \$300,000/year.

2. Mighty Ducks – Todd reported there was \$4 M in the Senate version of the State Government Finance bill. However, there were zero dollars in the House version. Thus, in the end there are no new funds for the Mighty Ducks programs. And, since there was no bonding bill, another potential vehicle for Mighty Ducks funding, there will no new funding for the grant program at this time. Johnson did hold out there is a slim possibility of the issue resurfacing during a Special Session of the Legislature.

B. City of Blaine Davenport Road Assessment/105th Avenue – Board members were given the opportunity to view a video of a Blaine City Council meeting held in November 2014 that included discussion about the City assessing the National Sports Center for road/sidewalk improvements. The NSC has been billed for its assessment for the improvements. Todd noted that former Executive Director, Paul Erickson, had made the City aware they cannot assess state property and referenced a letter sent to the City and County stating this with supporting rationale. Neil Ladd reviewed the MASC Statute (240A) that references property taxes/assessments. Following discussion, commission members agreed and recommended that no further action be taken until a discussion and opinion has been received with the agency’s Attorney General Representative (Erik Johnson).

C. Minnesota United Soccer – Barclay Kruse reported that there is still a possibility of a deal being reached with the professional soccer team (Minnesota United) and that the team

will be competing in the MLS in 2017 with the potential of the NSC hosting the team's home games in 2016.

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORTS

A. Finance & Administration – James Nelson, recently hired Director of Finance, reviewed the National Sports Center Foundation's Balance Sheet and P/L for the period ending March 31, 2015 noting that cash is very strong and staff has been working on paying down small debts with the goal to be debt free. Reported net income is \$350,000 and is a result of timely payments received for Schwan's USA CUP and Miracle Gold hockey program; as well as donations received for the velodrome (non-budgeted; repairs will be depreciated over the next five years) and golf is ahead of budget due to early spring and positive weather.

B. Planning, HR & Business Technology – Steve Olson updated members on recent activities he has been involved with in regards to the Sport Fitness Academy. He noted moving forward to the next level will take the effort and cooperation of multiple groups, including the five local school districts and their potential involvement with the program. One concept of establishing a pre-kindergarten initiative would involve the formal training of siblings to work with their respective sibling/community was discussed. Steve also noted that he is working with the Minneapolis Public Schools with the potential of having the NSC be the site for middle school soccer programs and incorporating fitness/nutrition discussions on the bus trip to the NSC.

C. Marketing, Media & Sponsorship – Barclay Kruse reminded members to review the NSC website to keep informed of the activities and communications relating to the NSC, including the review of news releases and videos that are produced by NSC Marketing Department. Barclay also noted that USA Hockey will be hosting its National Team Goaltending Camp later this month that will include 18 of the top goaltenders that are eligible for international competition.

D. Fields Sports Department – Darin Thompson updated members on the current status of Schwans USA CUP noting that there are 184 more teams registered this year for the same time last year (840 teams to date) with an additional 36 international teams registered for the same period, including teams from Ghana and Aruba. Opening Ceremonies will take place on July 14th and Alex Rowell strongly encouraged members to attend this exciting event.

E. Operations Department – Neil Ladd informed members that the Joyful Noise Christian Concert will be held at the NSC on June 5 & 6 and is sold out for both days. Neil also reported that representatives from Schwan's Food Company were recently at the NSC and noted that they would like to consider hosting a food festival during USA CUP that would feature foods from their home services division. In addition, Schwan's is looking at adding/enhancing their signage throughout the campus.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING – With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm. The next Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19 @ 11:30 am at the NSC Schwan Center/Gold Room B.**

Recorded by,
Lynda Lynch