

MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2015 @ 11:30 am

NSC Gradient Financial Center

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Rep. Joe Atkins, Judy Frisch, Alberder Gillespie, Michael Hahm, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Julie Lunning, Rick Nelson, Al Nuness, Alex Rowell, Chair; Rep. Linda Runbeck, Sen. David Senjem.

Absent: Joel Carlson, Sen. Alice Johnson, Bob Milbert, Rep. Tim Sanders, David Stead, Sen. David Tomassoni.

Staff: Todd Johnson, Barclay Kruse, Steve Olson, Kris Bjerkness, Neil Ladd, Pete Carlson, Darin Thompson, Mark Erickson, Peter Barsness, James Nelson.

Guests: Erik Johnson, Attorney General; City of Blaine representative.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion Made (Frisch), Seconded (Wendt) to approve the proposed MASC Meeting Agenda as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion Made (Nuness), seconded (Frisch) to approve the May 20, 2015 MASC Meeting Minutes as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Alex Rowell, Chair, reported on another tremendous year for Schwan's USA CUP and the great experience members had at attending the Opening Ceremonies; members thanked staff for a job well done and the work that transpires behind the scenes.

Alex briefly updated on the recent legislative tour noting Todd would be providing a more in depth report later in the meeting. Alex felt that the tour was well received and legislators were receptive to the proposed project(s).

Alex also noted that the MASC monthly newsletter will be reintroduced with the intent of keeping members apprised of MASC activities between the scheduled board meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Todd Johnson showed members the video that was part of the recent Minnesota House visit to the NSC and acknowledged Amber Johnson, NSC staff member, for her excellent work on producing the video. Todd also commented on the details of the visit noting that the group

had a tour of the proposed site and field development. Todd introduced Erik Johnson, from the Attorney General's Office, who was attending as a guest at the meeting.

Todd introduced Erik Johnson, representative from the Attorney General's Office, who has been providing legal counsel on proposed property taxes for the National Sports Center as well as a potential land/lease agreement with Spring Lake Park School District.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of New National Sports Center Board Member Appointment – Todd provided a brief background on Linda Bruemmer, noting her most recent extensive experience with the MN Department of Health, as the newest appointed NSCF Board Members. Following discussion, **Motion Made (Frisch), Seconded (Nelson) to approve the NSCF Board Appointment Amended Resolution (copy attached). Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Adoption of MASC 2016 Capital Bonding Request – Neil Ladd reviewed the revised 2016 MASC Capital Bonding priority list. Neil noted that staff has recommended changing the project priority list, most notably the City of Moorhead moving to priority #2 (previously #1) due to the fact of no projects funded in 2015 and based on the Governor's request and support for the NSCF project, that changes were made in what has been submitted to MMB for consideration in 2016. Following review of the proposed resolution and discussion, **Motion Made (Nuness), Seconded (Frisch) to approve the 2015-16 Capital Budget Request (copy attached). Motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Legislative Update - Mighty Ducks: Mark Erickson provided an update on the Mighty Duck Grant Program noting that the MASC website has been updated and includes the most recent information relating to the 2015 funds. Mark noted that the Mighty Duck Committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to review staff evaluations of grant applications and will make a formal recommendation for grant awards at the next MASC meeting. It was also mentioned that the information relating to the grant application process was communicated to the Ice Arena Managers Association, published in the State Register and announced in a recent press release. Steve Olson commented that staff is working with Ramsey County on analyzing energy consumption and potential cost savings with the intent of developing a comprehensive energy savings program to offset costs for implementing R22/air quality upgrades.

B. MASC/NSCF Task Force Report – 1) Minnesota United Soccer Update: Todd noted that with the ongoing discussions with Minnesota United ownership and its move to the MLS, the concern about NSC's future role and potential long term financial impact was addressed by the task force members, consisting of representatives from both MASC and NSCF boards. Bill McGuire, owner of Minnesota United, was very positive regardless of where the stadium is built that the NSC will be utilized. Alex Rowell expressed similar positive comments about the meeting noting that the NSC could be a future practice site as well as the host for the soccer academy. 2) Other: Todd noted that Spring Lake Park School District has approached the NSC about potential NSC land available for an elementary school to be built. Neil reviewed the possible site locations on a map distributed to members. Neil noted that this would be a lease option and fits within MASC's legislation which allows the agency to lease property. Staff could have a formal land/lease proposal for review/discussion at the next MASC meeting.

C. City of Blaine Davenport Road Assessment – Todd mentioned that he had contacted Erik Johnson following the recommendation at the last MASC meeting. Erik provided a brief update on special assessments with a final recommendation pending further research on the issue.

NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORTS

A. Finance & Administration – Kris Bjerkness and Peter Barsness reviewed the preliminary NSCF financial reports for the period ending July 31, 2015 noting the positive results for July reflects \$638,000 YTD ahead of plan and a projected \$600,000 net income for year-end. It was also noted that the Balance Sheet reflects the restructuring of loans/debts with \$90,000 in interest savings.

B. Planning, HR & Business Technology – Steve Olson reported that staff has met with the City of North Mankato which has a newly formed sports commission and is providing assistance in developing building and programming infrastructure. Steve also reported on a number of projects that he is assisting with, including: Hennepin County Grant Program and the addition of an anti-drowning grant component; Sport & Fitness Academy; First Community Cup which is a collaborative event with the Tony Sanneh Foundation and the youth communities of Hopkins and Eden Prairie; City of Minneapolis Middle Schools forming a soccer league that would utilize NSC fields and the City of Minneapolis provides buses and referees.

C. Marketing, Media & Sponsorship – Barclay Kruse reported on the success of the Star of the North Games held in Rochester which featured 4,000 plus athletes. Barclay also reported on the media results for Schwan's USA CUP with staff still assembling final media impressions noting there was a slight decrease this year due to no weather issues and unable to track social media.

D. Operations – Neil provided a brief update on the status of the field development noting that staff is optimistic that the new fields will be ready for use by next summer. Neil also noted that Pete Carlson recruited and secured a new sponsor which resulted in the Schwan Center's naming rights being changed to the Gradient Financial Center (Gentry Academy).

E. Field Sports – Darin Thompson updated members on sport programming which includes 270 plus teams for the NSC Fall Cup (soccer), indoor soccer leagues (150-200 teams); ongoing baseball/soccer/lacrosse and baseball training programs; Cal Dietz will be providing new strength training program; a first-time grass volleyball tournament will be held in June and the MN Twins Academy will be back at the NSC Expo Center.

F. Schwan Super Rink – Pete Carlson updated members on the status of MN Hockey shortening the youth hockey season and the potential impact and challenges this will have for 300 plus arenas statewide (four weeks total), including the Super Rink and its staff to create or secure events to fill the vacant times. Pete provided an update on ice sports programming. Ice usage for 2015 included 11,200 for rinks 1-4 and 8,700 hours for rinks 5-8; consortium members have submitted ice requests for the 2015-16 season. MN Wild Adult League and NSC Figure Skating program continues to assist consortium member ice usage.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm. The next meeting of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 11:30 am at the Gradient Financial Center (formerly Schwan Center)/Gold Room B.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch