

**MINNESOTA AMATEUR SPORTS COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18, 2015 @ 11:30 am**  
**NSC Round Table Café**  
**(DRAFT)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Joel Carlson, Judy Frisch, Alberder Gillespie, Michael Hahm, Joan Hallock, Lori Higgins, Sen. Alice Johnson, Rick Nelson, Alex Rowell, Chair.

Absent: Rep. Joe Atkins, Bob Milbert, Al Nunez, Rep. Linda Runbeck, Rep. Tim Sanders, Sen. David Senjem, David Stead, Sen. David Tomassoni, John Wendt.

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

Guest: Manny Lagos.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion Made (Nelson), Seconded (Gillespie) to approve the August 19, 2015 MASC Meeting Minutes as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Alex Rowell reported that a lot of exciting things are happening and on the horizon which will be addressed by staff during the course of the meeting. Alex acknowledged staff for their efforts and commitment which is reflected in the National Sports Center's financial success in 2015.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Todd Johnson provided brief background on the Harkness Tables concept and the benefit to incorporating this philosophy with the implementation of the Round Table Café' and its promotion for staff meals, meeting options, etc. with the hope of promoting individual and group bonding and a collaborative work environment.

Johnson provided an 11 month update since his hire in December of 2014 using the 3 C Focus Report (Colleagues/Coworkers, Campus and Cash) and a summary of highlights for each category, some of which included improving staff benefits, implementing a master campus

facilities plan, utilizing a search firm to hire a Chief Development Officer (new position) and exploring the possibility of building a school and hotel on campus.

Todd introduced Manny Lagos, coach of the Minnesota United professional soccer team, who provided members with an update on the current and potential partnership with MN United. Manny confirmed that while it doesn't make sense to have the team play its future games at the NSC, they will ensure that the NSC is utilized as a training facility for its development team and academy program. The NSC has played a significant role in the growth of youth soccer.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- A. MASC Commission Appointments – Todd reviewed the proposed resolution reappointing Bob Milbert and Joel Carlson to an additional three year term (ending December 31, 2018). Alex Rowell recommended that both individuals be approved for reappointment. **Motion Made (Nelson), Seconded (Frisch) to approve the resolution as written and distributed to members; motion carried unanimously (copy attached).**
- B. SLP School District #16 Proposed School Development – Todd provided background on the proposed school development with the Spring Lake Park School District and potential sites for the elementary school. An original site considered was north of 105<sup>th</sup> and part of the newly developed fields; however, based on communications with MMB staff, it was suggested that staff reconsider and explore other site options. Following a lengthy discussion, a **Motion was Made (Carlson), Seconded (Gillespie) to approve the Resolution authorizing staff to continue to pursue a legislative request necessary for the project to process (copy attached); motion carried unanimously.**
- C. Airport Park – Todd reviewed the 10 fields that are adjacent to NSC property that is leased by the City of Blaine with the Metropolitan Airport Commission. These fields are currently utilized by the Blaine community and the Blaine Soccer Club. Todd has met with the Executive Director of the soccer club and has had positive conversations regarding the possibility of the NSC taking over the 10 fields. The NSC would like to continue to negotiate with the City of Blaine and the MAC. Following discussion, **Motion was Made (Johnson), Seconded (Hallock) to approve the Resolution authorizing the MASC Executive Director to negotiate a new master agreement with MAC that would include the golf course and the airport park (copy attached); Motion carried unanimously.**
- D. Mighty Duck 2015 Grant Awards Recommendation – Mike Hahm reviewed the application process and proposed recommendations of the Mighty Duck Committee noting that all but two grant applicants will be funded. Joel noted that the projects that did not receive recommendation did not meet the matching fund requirement and were encouraged to reapply once criteria has been met. Following review of the proposed recommendations, **Motion was Made (Hahm), Seconded (Nelson) to approve the Resolution awarding 16 Mighty Duck Grants (copy attached); Motion carried unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Minnesota United/Mighty Kicks – Todd noted that MN United would like to play a bigger role in USA CUP as well as utilizing the relationship with the Tony Sanneh Foundation for the purpose of establishing a grant program similar to what was done in the past with the popular

Mighty Kicks Grant Program. Joel Carlson took the opportunity to inform members that he is currently serving as a lobbyist for MN United and will remove himself from any pending and future discussion/action regarding the soccer team.

B. City of Blaine Davenport Road Assessment 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Todd noted that the NSCF has not paid the assessment bill for the proposed assessment for 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue and continues to pursue further discussion on the matter.

C. Official Relocation to Gradient Financial Center- Todd informed members about current negotiations with MN United and MLS regarding the potential of renting office space in the existing administration/program areas at the NSC. This will result in the relocation of staff offices to the Gradient Financial Center within the next couple of months. There has also been limited discussion with the State Patrol about using the NSC as a training/recruitment site.

## **NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER REPORTS**

A. Finance & Administration – Kris Bjerkness reviewed the NSCF financial reports for the period ending October 31, 2015 noting that it was the best year since the facility opened its doors with revenue increased by 12%; all sport programs and rentals were increased significantly; food and beverage sales surpassed projections; the extended fall season was beneficial for the golf course and other fall sport programs.

B. Planning, HR & Business Technology – Steve Olson provided an update on the Hennepin County Grant Program noting that October was the deadline for the most recent round of sport equipment grants with awards to be made sometime in December. Steve is also working on a number of initiatives/projects including: Ramsey County and self-funding utility/energy cost issues relating to R22; consulting with Mankato Sports Commission and developing a plan to renovate their sports facilities; working with health insurance companies regarding childhood obesity; met with the Super Bowl Legacy Fund to discuss the potential of a grant program to focus on after school and health benefit programs.

C. Marketing, Media & Sponsorship – Barclay updated on upcoming events that would be receiving media coverage and/or press release provided: Mighty Duck Grant Awards, Hardwater Ice Fishing Show and the Schwan Cup Hockey Tournament, which will also feature live webcam game coverage. Barclay also noted that marketing has contracted with the Herb Brooks Foundation to assist in promoting their programs, i.e. Rink Rat Program. Staff is working on producing a NSC orientation video that will assist in educating new staff, board members, city officials and should be complete within the next three to four months.

D. Operations – Neil Ladd reported on the capital bonding project requests and how the funds would be utilized. Neil also noted that monies are being utilized to cover deferred maintenance costs/projects throughout the campus and this will continue through the end of the year. Neil also noted that there were 33,000 rounds of golf played this year and was the best year ever (10% growth overall) for the course.

E. Field Sports – Darin Thompson updated on the success of the field sports programs for 2015 with the majority of the programs/events seeing positive growth. Darin reported on new programs/events for the coming year that will be added and will attract new and different user groups. In addition, staff has been traveling significantly on marketing trips for USA CUP.

F. Ice Sports – Pete Carlson noted that tickets are available for the Schwa Cup tournament with one ticket being good for the entire event). Pete also noted that the Super Rink is busy every weekend for the remainder of the year and into the following year. Pete will be meeting with consortium

members to re-educate new members on the existing agreement with the Super Rink which helps decrease interest in communities building their own ice arenas.

#### **OTHER**

Todd commented on a couple of items: 1) Staff will be discussing ways to increase MASC's role statewide; i.e. high school hockey jamboree at state facilities/arenas. 2) Staff will be reviewing NSCF articles and bylaws; 3) Todd will meet with board members in the coming weeks/months.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Recorded by,

Lynda Lynch